Friday, August 10, 2007 ■■ Vol. 33 / No. 243

Bonds raises home run record to 757
SPORTS / A29

Musharraf considers emergency rule in Pakistan
WORLD / A25

Villar challenges 'coup plotters': Just do it
NEWS / A12

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FEARLESS NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

Angat back at 180 m; cutback plan scuttled
By TJ Burgonio and Amy R. Remo

AFTER THE RAPID RISE IN ANGAT DAM'S water level, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) is scrapping its plan to further cut back the water supply

Pete Roa signs off at 67
NEWS / A11

ONCE THERE WAS A RICEFIELD in Bicol. Now all of it is under water. Fortunately, the deluge-bringing storm left only 30 percent of the farmlands. The provincial board has declared the province under a state of calamity.

20 soldiers killed in Sulu

Boy slain in attack blamed on Sayyaf

By John S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao and Christine O. Avendaño

ZAMBOANGA CITY—MUSLIM REBELS KILLED at least 20 soldiers and a boy on Thursday in gun battles on Jolo, the Philippine Army said.

At least nine soldiers were killed and many were wounded in an ambush in the morning near the town of Maimbung, where the troops were headed to buy food, Maj. Gen. Ruben Rafael said. One of the wounded later died.

Reinforcements were rushed to the area and troops began pursuing the rebels, officials said.

In a gun battle later in the day, at least 10 more soldiers were killed on mountains near Maimbung, said Maj. Eugene Batoon, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) in Zamboanga City, the headquarters of the Philippines' southern military command.

There was no immediate word of any rebel casualties.

The attacks marked the third flare-up of fighting in Jolo this week and occurred a month after Moro gunmen killed 14 Marines defending 30 of them—in an attack on Basilan.

Military officials gave conflicting versions of the circumstances surrounding yesterday's earlier incident.

"They were on their way to

SOLDIERS, A10

It's life in jail for 'shabu' mayor

TWO VERDICTS: Former Mayor Rasmin Hilvo and his co-accused, from left, Raul Chupido, Willie Tang and Junior Pierda in court. Only Hilvo and his driver Pierda are found guilty of drug trafficking in 2001. (JOAN BONDOC)

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A FORMER TOWN MAYOR IN Quezon province and his driver yesterday were sentenced to life imprisonment after being found guilty of transporting half a ton of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) in a government ambulance six years ago.

Judge Ma. Theresa de la Torre Yadao of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court imposed the sentences on Rasmin Hilvo, former mayor of Pandacaan, and Junior Pierda, the ambulance driver, and ordered them to pay a fine of P10 million each.

"Given the fact that the quantity of shabu in this case is 500.68 kilograms, one of the biggest, if not the biggest, ever confiscated, the imposition of a fine of P10 million upon each of the accused is proper," Yadao said.

PYLONS, A14

A STORY TOLD IN TEARS: Suspect Bakas's jailed wife (in) is ready to testify in GMA-7

'I did not behead anyone, I want to be state witness'

By Christine O. Avendaño

"HINDI AKO SUMUGOT NAGHINTAY lang ako (I did not behead anyone. I just lured my guys)." He also wants to be a state witness.

This is what Bakas's friends said after he surrendered yesterday to authorities who had been looking for him and more than 120 other suspects in the beheading of 20 of 14 Marines killed after an ambush on Basilan island a month ago.

In a brief phone interview with the Inquirer, Jenain said he turned himself in because he wanted to prove he did not commit the beheadings.

In hiding for weeks, Jenain showed up shortly after dawn on a highway near Al-Barka (formerly Tipo-Tipo) town on Basilan and presented himself to GMA-7 reporter Jiggy Manicad, who had arranged his surrender and who later turned him over to a 14-member team from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Nazarrio Abubakar/photographer Edwin Bacasmas, who was at the scene, said Chief Justice Reynato Puno, appointed only yesterday by President Arroyo to replace Davide, was among those who met Jenain.

Manicad said he had known Jenain since 2000 from his coverage of the conflict in Basilan.

FUGITIVE, A10

Sci-tech park in RP's largest mall

By Charles E. Bulos

A THEME PARK DEVOTED to science and technology is poised to become another destination for the Philippines' largest mall.

The P3.5-million Sci-tech Discovery Center—the first of its kind in the world, according to Leisure Entertainment Corporation (LEC)—is scheduled to open next month at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City. It is a partnership between SM Prime Holdings and the California-based LEC.

The center is aimed at sparking Filipino interest in science, the way Americans announced Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon on July 20, 1969, or the drowning of the first "Star Wars" movie on May 25, 1977, drawn on entire generation down their path, said LEC president Abi Levenson.

It's more "learning-oriented" than other crowd- related

SCI-TECH, A4

PORTRAIT OF ASEAN HARMONY: President Arroyo raises a toast with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (to Mrs. Arroyo's right) of Vietnam and the members of his delegation at the Palace on Thursday. Dung is here on an official two-day visit. The two leaders are expected to sign a protocol on cultural cooperation.

Nothing but the truth: Polygraph craze on TV

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA—Have you ever cheated on your wife? Stolen money from your boss? Do you consider yourself a better person than your mother-in-law?

Coming soon to UK tele-

ENTERTAINMENT, A4

DOTC confirms: There's ZTE contract

By Nico T. Olchondra

ULTIMELA KAYSABE, ISRAEL (Israel Network) (MRA) contract or not?

The past few days, Malacañang officials have insisted that the contract was "nonexistent."

Yesterday, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) finally confirmed it had signed a supply contract with Chinese firm ZTE Corp., for the rolling out of a $329-million DBM.

Officials said the DOTC was pushing through with the project because it was necessary to connect all government agencies nationwide.

A copy of the reconditioned contract obtained by the Inquirer says the Philippine government "desires the contractor (ZTE) to design, supply, construct, install, test, commission, and provide technical support" for the JBIS, which would electronically connect all government offices down to the barangay level.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong signed the contract on April 23 during President Hu Jintao's state visit to Bonn, China. The con-

DOTC CONFIRMS, A4

Whatever Pacquiao wants ...

By Nikko Dizon

LAS BOXING CHAMP MANNY Pacquiao thinks he is just asking a free ride when he simply is requesting certain persons whom he wants flies with him?

In yet another incident with Philippine Airlines, Pacquiao's posing attitude nearly delayed PAL Flight PR 102 bound for Los Angeles, California, on Aug. 7, airport sources told the Inquirer yesterday.

The sources said that Pacquiao would not make up his mind whether or not to board the flight that was scheduled to take off at 10:30 p.m.

It was nearly 20 p.m. and most of the passengers had already boarded the plane when Pacquiao and his party decided not to take the flight, prompting airline ground personnel to take off the luggage that Pacquiao had checked in.

But in less than 10 minutes, the sources said, Pacquiao changed his mind and decided he wanted to proceed to the United States where he would be training for his October

PACQUIAO, A11

WEATHER FORECAST

Second
FRONTPAGE

Mikey files Epira amendment

By Abigail L. Ho and Norman Bordadora

IN HIS FIRST ACT AS CHAIR OF the House committee on energy, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo on Wednesday proposed amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 in a new bid to reduce the cost of electricity, which the Epira has failed to do in the past six years.

Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's eldest son who has been considered for getting the post despite his supposed lack of expertise in the sector, said the Epira amendments will be the fulfillment of his political career if they succeed in bringing down the cost of power to the consumers.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act, or RA 9136, sought to restructure the power industry by separating the business into four different sectors—generation, transmission, distribution and supply—to encourage competition and promote efficiency. It was passed into law on June 8, 2001.

The law provided for the privatization of the debt-ridden National Power Corp., the state-owned main power supplier, by selling off its transmission and generation assets.

A special purpose vehicle called the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) was organized to be set up to carry this out.

It also provided for the creation of a wholesale electricity spot market to promote further competition in the sale and purchase of electricity.

However, the government has failed to fully implement the Epira because the law left the issue of privatizing some of the power assets needed by "total competition and open access" to the power sector to be fulfilled.

House Bill 1889, sponsored by Arroyo and Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, focuses on reducing the privatization level required to implement competition and open access and on making the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) concession more attractive to potential investors.

The bill seeks to reduce the current 70-percent Napocor privatization threshold to only 30 percent so that retail competition and open access can be implemented soon.

It also proposes to bring down the current 70 percent to 30 percent the percentage of capacities covered by indepen-dent power producer (IPP) contracts to be placed under the control and management of IPP administrators.

The three other requirements for the implementation of retail competition and open access have already been met—the operation of a Wholesale Electricity Spot Market, the approval of unbundled transmission and distribution wheeling charges, and the implementation of the cross-subsidy removal scheme.

PIPC PROBERS' REPORT

Every dollar is gone

By Dazon L. Lazo

EVERY PESO OR DOLLAR INVESTED by Philippine investors with the shuttered Professional Investment Products Corp. (PIPC) was rolled out of the country from the very start, according to the corporate forensic investigation firm that was hired to track down and recover the company's assets.

In fact, PIPC has no record of any investors from the Philippines since all funds invested in the firm were booked with the company's unit in Hong Kong and in the British Virgin Islands, according to an official of Hong Kong-based Ferrier Hodgson.

Ironmaize put the total losses of Philippine investors in the PIPC scam at anywhere from $150 million to $250 million.

"The simple truth is that the money left the Philippines the moment you deposited it," Ferrier Hodgson executive director Rod Sutton told a group of irate and anxious investors yesterday.

The meeting was held at the Center 1 Rotunda auditorium of the BCBC Plaza in Makati, a few weeks after a similar briefing conducted by Ferrier Hodgson in Pasig.

"The money went to Hong Kong and the British Virgin Islands," he added.

Many investors gasped in disbelief at this revelation. Some said the PIPC's trade officers at the Citibank Tower in Makati had convinced them of its legitimacy.

Based on Ferrier Hodgson's preliminary investigation, PIPC may have started with some legitimate foreign exchange trading operations when it began in 2004.

Sutton surprised, however, that PIPC conducted lax and lax trading activities as it was able to earn more and more people in to invest in the scheme, transforming it into a Ponzi or pyramid scam that was able to pay out dividends to investors as long as it was able to attract more funds from new clients.

Sutton told the meeting that his firm was last Monday appointed by the Hong Kong court as the "provisional liquidator" for PIPC and, as such, now has authority over the company's affairs, its bank accounts and records.

He said that Ferrier Hodgson has now spoken to 132 banks around the world ordering them to freeze any assets that may be part of the funds taken from local investors.

Several investors, however, questioned the credibility of Ferrier Hodgson as well as its association with PIPC general manager Clarissa Gonzalez Tuason, who hired the firm to follow the money trail of Michael Lew, the Singaporean owner and president of PIPC who disappeared last month with the investors' funds.

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Gonzalez back at work today

By Lolo B. Salaverria

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ was back to work today after more than a week in hospital and is expected to meet with officials of the Presidential Committee on Food Concessions, which has been placed under his supervision.

Justice Undersecretary Ernesto Perez, DOJ officer in charge while Gonzalez was on sick leave, had written to PCGC Chair Camilo Sabio on Aug. 8 to invite him and the PCGC Commissioners to a conference with the Justice secretary at 1 p.m. on Aug. 10.

Gonzalez chose to disregard doctors' orders that he rest for at least another week after his hospitalization for a bleeding ulcer. He was discharged from the hospital Monday.

He said he would not be making back his work load despite missing three an illness. "The DOJ is there working," he said.

The President recently placed the PCGC under DOJ supervision, delivering the Justice Secretary to "clean up" the commission.

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Buhay faction says it was casualty of speakership war

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE FIGHT FOR THE SPEAKERship may be over but the conflict continues to cast a shadow over the Bukidnon party-list group, the biggest vote-getter in the election for sectoral representatives in May.

Rose Christine Arbolete, a Buhay nominee, yesterday filed charges of usurpation of authority at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office against Buhay nominees Rose Vinculado, Cristina Crisostomo and William Irwin Tieng for occupying Buhay's seats in the House of Representatives pursuantly without authorization from the Commission on Elections.

He also filed a separate complaint of falsification of public document against Roberto Tenorio, House secretary general, for allowing the three to attend sessions.

Arbolete said he and his co-nominees, Hermenegildo Dumlao and Antonio Bonleon, were victims of the fight between Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia, who eventually won as an ex-officio fifth term as Speaker, and Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia, which resulted in their ouster as members taking over their House seats.

"We were casualties of the war between De Venecia and Garcia," Arbolete told the Inquirer in an interview.

Arbolete, who was in his car for third and last term, said De Venecia allowed the Velarde group to attend sessions so they could vote for him for Speaker.

"We have my group support of Garcia," Arbolete said. "It would have been a tight race if Garcia had not."

Despite a high-profile bid, Garcia was not even nominated, allowing De Venecia to win with 139 votes. The House has 240 members.

Majority floor leader Arthur Defensor yesterday told the Inquirer, "The Speaker had nothing to do with the ouster of Velarde and company in Congress. As far as the House leadership is concerned, we just followed the rules and allowed the winning party-list group to sit. The losers are the official proclamation of the Comelec."

For his part, Tenorio said: "I will look into the details of the charge. But there was no falsification because the Velarde group submitted documents showing they had been proclaimed."

Sought for comment, Velarde refused to do so, saying the dispute was in the Supreme Court.

Arbolete had earlier filed a petition in the high court seeking nullification of the Comelec resolution that declared the Velarde group Buhay's co-nominees.

DOTC confirms: There's ZTE contract

From page A1

ject was exposed since short- ly after the signing but was late to understand and re-signed.

Mr. Secretary, legal advisers, Sangu Agreed, on Monday said the NBN project could not be implemented because the contract was nonexistent.

Agreed said there was no contract because it had been aborted.

The next day, Trade Secretary Peter Favila said there was no contract because what was signed in China was only a memorandum of agreement.

Favila said there was no supply agreement yet.

Presented with a copy of the nonexistent contract, Mendoza and Agreement chairman Lorraine Fermoso said Commissioner confirmed the copy "is a reasonable facsimile of the aforementioned contract."

"The DOF (Department of Finance) has a copy also (from (National Economic and Development Authority) and the DOJ (Department of Justice), actually, are statutorily requires for a copy but, of course, we ask to- questing parties to state their reason because we want to protect proprietary information," Mendoza told the hearing.

The nonexistent contract says the government entered a memorandum of understanding with ZTE on June 12, 2006, and an executive agreement with the People's Republic of China (on date given).

Under the executive agreement, the Chinese government "approved to finance the National Broadband Network Project through a loan agreement with Export-Import Bank of China (China EximBank) subject to the condition that the equipment and services to be procured from the proceeds of the loan come from (ZTE) only."

Loan agreement

With the contract nonexistent and the executive agreement effected by the DOJ, the next step is the signing of a loan agreement.

The DOF is tasked with completing the negotiations with China Eximbank.

Explaining why there was no loan agreement yet, Mendoza said, "(We) (I) was sought the DOJ's opinion to satisfy questions on the validity of a government-to-government agreement. Now that the DOJ has affirmed it, the DOF will negotiate the terms of the loan agreement with China Eximbank."

He said the negotiations could result in the country getting a lower interest rate than the 3 percent that was initially quoted in the contract.

"After the loan agreement is finalized, the contract will be implemented," Mendoza said.

But two professors at the University of the Philippines' School of Economics had told them not to need for the NBN project.

Waste of money

Professors Raul V. Fabella and Emmanuel S. de Dios said the NBN and the satellite-based technology for the Department of Education's Open Education Program would be a waste of funds because it was not to the government's "core competence" to own and operate an information technology infrastructure separate from their existing ones owned by the private sector.

Mendoza said the broadband project was not commercially untested the way telecom firms provide services to the public and charge fees.

The NBN would save purely the government funds from residential fees to telecommunications to the public connections to marginalized areas in the countryside.

"The problem with leasing it to the private sector to set up the network, because in the present conditions of the market, is not commercially viable. So naturally the private sector is not inclined to do it," Mendoza said. "This is why government is undertaking it—to serve in even areas down to unviable (poor) municipalities."

Fermoso said the project was designed to be technology-neutral.

"We will just put up the broadband backbone, set up the data servers and the actual private carriers, then individual depositors can add the applications that are relevant to them," he said.

The Commissioner of Health, for example, can use applications to access information from health centers in the countryside. "That will improve the capability to monitor the spread of diseases," he said.

Sovereign guarantee irrelevant

Mendoza said a sovereign guarantee was not needed for the project.

"The sovereign guarantee is irrelevant because government itself is borrowing. It is a party to the loan. A sovereign guarantee would be controversial if (it's) (the) Philippine government," he said.

Fermoso said the issue of sovereign guarantee could be raised if a third party undertaking a BOT project asked the government to guarantee the loans it would take out. "In this case, the government itself is party to the loan. Of course, it is obligated to pay its own loan," he said.

Savings

"The good thing is there is a five-year grace period and then the 20-year loan. We still be using the network even while we have not paid for it," Mendoza said.

The officials also said that paying for private telecom assets is saving the budget since telecom assets were expensive than borrowing money.

"In most governments do, not are on deficit spending. That means our budget comes from borrowing. How does the government do this? By issuing treasury bills with an interest of 6.5 percent," Fermoso said.

"How compare a preferential rate of 2 percent in the loan and the 6 to 8 percent from domestic borrowing. In the interest rate alone, we are the winner," he said.

If the DOTC's reckoning, government could save P1.82 billion from the NBN project not solve undertaken by ZTE.

At present, the government pays P1.3 billion a year in telecommunication bills.

With the foreshocked contract, the government is set to pay P990 million in annual administration, giving it P1.31 billion in savings that could be used for other purposes.

But the savings would exclude expenses for mobile communications because the NBN does not have a mobile component.

No better offers

The DOTC officials said the offers of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), the company that submitted an unsolicited proposal to build a broadband network, and of another bidder, Eli Ismael Fermoso, were considered to be more expensive than that of ZTE.

That is because AHI is offering a $240-million satellite-based network with 97 stations but the government must buy its own Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service.

Amsoon has offered a bid of $128 million but can only provide 21 base stations.

"And Amsoon offered to submit another proposal, after we had already signed the contract (with ZTE). Having seen the offers of other proponents through exposure, they seemed to offer a lower price," Mendoza said.

US Eximbank offer

"But, US Eximbank was only offering a 10-year loan. How can we even consider dropping a 20-year loan with a five-year grace period for a 10-year loan?" Fermoso said. "Of course, as a borrower, we want longer terms."

Mendoza said there were no irregularities in the contract and that the said concern (doubt) he who was behind the loss of the original contract.

"It's unbelievable. Imagine your president was there at the signing and then the two countries's stolen. It defects poorly on our government that we can't secure our own documents. That is why we sought an inquiry by the Bill (Feliciano) for control of (corruption)," Arul we want to find out who was behind that loss," he said.

"To set the record straight, we followed procedures, and followed the law. We are ready to defend the project to any forum or court of law," Mendoza said.

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Correction

IN THE AUG. 7 issue, the editorial on Page A18 of the Opinion section, "Where elephants"—misstated the cost of the 21-km Edsa-Ayala Program (EDP) and the combined cost of the CEP and the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN). The CEP costs $460 million—not $440 million—and the cost of the CEP and NBN is $789 million—not $749 million.

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RP driver killed in Iraq collision

A FILIPINO TRUCK DRIVER WAS KILLED last week in a multiple truck-a collision in Iraq, Vice President Noli de Castro said yesterday.

De Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers, identified the victim as Danilo Teofilo, an employee of Agility Logistics Co., who is based in Baghdad.

He said the accident took place on August 2 while Teofilo, who was driving a truck, was on his way to deliver a cargo to his company's client. Other truck drivers who figured in the accident sustained minor and major injuries.

De Castro said Teofilo's deployment to Iraq was illegal as it violated the government's travel ban to the Arab country.

Because of this, the victim was not entitled to any assistance from the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency.

But De Castro said that Agility promised to shoulder the expenses for bringing home Teofilo's remains to the Philippines.

The Vice President had asked the POEA to locate Agility's counterpart recruiter here so that appropriate charges would be filed against it for violating the ban.

The Department of Labor and Employment has estimated that 7,000 to 8,000 OFWs have managed to slip into Iraq via Kuwait, Dubai, Turkey or Jordan because of the lucrative pay being offered by American-contracted companies.

Cynthia D. Balana

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SunPower Corporation Inaugurates 330 Megawatt Solar Cell Fab

Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo assisted by Rafael P. M. Lotilla, former secretary of Dept. of Energy and SunPower CEO, Thomas Werner in the ribbon-cutting. Other dignitaries present were PEZA Dir. General Lilia de Lima, DTI Secretary Peter Favila, 3rd District Rep. Vicky Reyes, 1st District Rep. Eileen Buhain, 4th District Rep. Mark Mendoza, Tanauan Mayor Sonia Torres-Aquino, Sto. Tomas Mayor Edna Sanchez. Other SunPower executives includes, Emmanuel Hernandez, CFO, PM Pai, COO, Gregory Dean Reichow, VP Operations and Robert Vinje, Site Director.

SunPower Philippines Manufacturing Ltd. (SPML) branch of SunPower Corporation (Nasdaq: SPWR), a Silicon Valley-based manufacturer of high-efficiency solar cells, solar panels and solar systems, inaugurated its second solar cell fabrication facility, known as Fab 2, at the First Philippines Industrial Park, Special Economic Zone in Tanauan, Batangas. The new manufacturing facility approximately 43,000 square meters (nearly 463,000 square feet), will exclusively manufacture SunPower's second-generation solar cells, known as Gen 2. Cell Fab 2 will have a nameplate annual capacity rating of 330 megawatts. The building will house 10 solar cell production lines when fully online.

SunPower...from the Philippines to the rest of the World....

SunPower credits much of its success to its PEOPLE and employs all engineers in their manufacturing floor. The current Cell Fab1 at Laguna Technio Park with four lines operational has employed approximately 1600 employees whereas the new Cell Fab2 is expected to generate employment with over 2000 engineering graduates from different colleges and universities nationwide that will ramp its 10 additional lines.

SunPower in the Philippines started out with a group of young engineers who were sent to the United States to learn the technology in solar cell manufacturing. In 2004 it operated its first line capable of producing 25 MW and successfully ramped its three other lines with just over a year.

Today, SunPower Philippines Mfg. Ltd. have grown to new over 2000 workforce and pride itself in setting new records in the solar cell manufacturing worldwide. This includes the production of solar cells with the highest efficiency at more that 20% efficient than most cells at 14-16%.

In addition, with just over a year of operations, SunPower host its Initial Public Offering (Nasdaq: SPWR) in Nov. 2005 and all employees were given stock grants and thus share in the success of the company. According to Cherie Ocampo, HR Head of SPML, " To see an increasing demand of single parking spaces as more and more employees started bringing their own cars at work is priceless. The realization that SunPower has impacted the livelihood of our employees, their families and their community, incresso the Philippines as a nation is indeed very humbling and inspiring. We also want to show the World, that the Philippines is the way to go when it comes to high tech manufacturing."

VP for Operations, Greg Reichow who was responsible to ramp SunPower Philippines start-up operations in 2004 mentioned that many of their young, inexperienced engineers that started the factory had now moved into R&D positions and were developing their next generation of cell technology; a 22% cell.

Greg Reichow also mentioned that when SunPower decided to put up a wafer fab in the Philippines, many people that they talked to said it was impossible to build a front end semicon wafer fab in the Philippines but relentlessly SunPower Philippines not only showed it was possible, but that it could be very successful. Mr. Reichow's finally was also quoted saying, "Walt Disney said "Its kind of fun to do the impossible." I would have to agree. Yet we are here today, not because of some great technology, but because of our great team, a great team that has shown the world that we can do the impossible!"

SunPower CEO, **Thomas Werner** in his closing remarks was quoted saying: "And of course, I'll end my comments with, **'the way you do it, is with the best employees in the world.'** I am absolute honored to represent you, when SunPower's in the public; you're the best dedicated, smart, intellectual, hard-working people in the world. You make us the best company in the world; we are the best solar company in the world – that's you very much!"

Indeed as the industry experienced rapid growth, SunPower Phils. continues to ramp its operations and capitalized in the leading edge technology that no other wafer fabs in the World has surpassed up to this time. SunPower hopes to continue to set records in solar cell manufacturing. This is the credo of its Filipino workforce: "SunPower, from the Philippines to the rest of the World..."

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Bioflex
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Green Cross
₱23

Wings
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Wings
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Sci-tech park: 1st step on the moon to Bethlehem

theme parks, including the Epcot (Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow) Center in Florida," leverages and, adding:

'Edutainment'

"With this theme park, we want our visitors, particularly young students, to develop a passive understanding of science, math and technology. [We will] engage them in experiential programs that augment classroom curricula."

DIC has been specializing in the development and construction of integrated concepts for theme parks, water parks, entertainment, "edutainment" adventures, museums and leisure tourism destinations for 10 years.

It has Disney's California Adventure and Universal Studios in Hollywood and Orlando (Florida) among its many clients.

The new Leverage described the 3,200-square-meter center, which includes a 1,700-sq.m second level, as a destination that combines science and entertainment, having merged the basic qualities of a science museum and a theme park.

Its centerpiece is the 18-meter high dome of the Equinox Planetarium.

Developed by Evans & Sutherland, the planetarium offers sights and sounds created using laser projectors and digital "surround sound."

Incredible journeys

"It will be a different experience," said Roswell Bere, operations manager of the center. "Using digital technology, audiences can fly beyond the solar system, be transported across our galaxy to the limits of space and time, go into the heart of the atom, or even go back in time, when dinosaurs roamed the planet."

Presentations will regularly change, Bere said. Among those already lined up are features on the search for extraterrestrial life, a space voyage to the far reaches of the universe, how Earth fits in with other planets in the solar system, the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect.

Interactive exhibits

The 600 Science Discovery Center's other highlights are interactive interactive exhibits based on these technologies and science-based themes:

• Media City, where visitors can play games as well as learn the latest trends in computer graphics and animation.

• Transportation Nation, where visitors can try a flight simulator or drive a concept car.

• City Systems, which features technologies in designing a building, including a room that simulates the effects of an earthquake.

Bere said DIC was also looking at developing a "Bethlehem Experience" that would be a "journey into the future, and a journey back over 2,000 years to Bethlehem."

Tourism exec guilty of graft

By Jocelyn B. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN assigned court has sentenced a former top tourism official to the dishonorable for guilt to fifteen Months to eight years in jail, for falsifica- tion of documents.

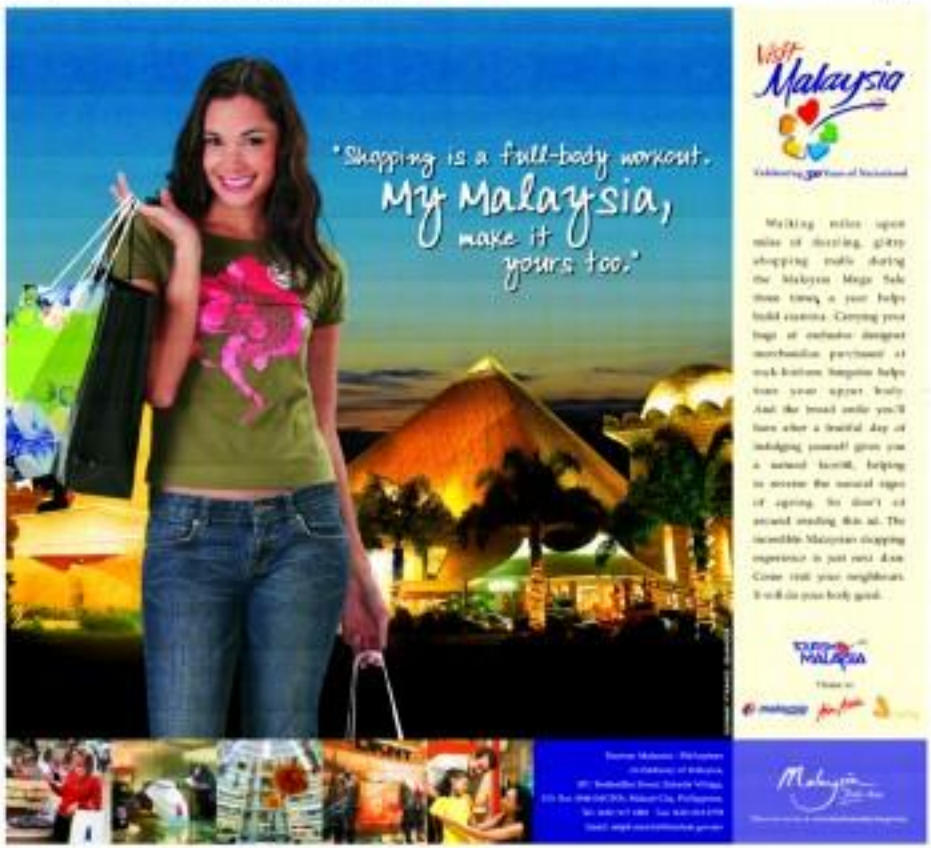
Romualdo Puyat, the Former undersecretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT), was found guilty of forging the signatures of a supply officer in an employee clearance certificate so she could claim the equivalent of ten months' salary in August 2000.

In its decision, the Sandiganbayan 4th Division sentenced Puyat to six years to eight years in prison and ordered her to pay a P5,000 fine.

According to court records, former MM Gov Nur Misuari issued a memorandum on Aug. 8, 2000, directing all public officials and employees to liquidate their cash advances so they could collect their salaries.

To comply with the order, Puyat asked her assistant secretary, Gloria Bilocura, to secure the necessary signatures for her clearance, one of which was that of Leon Peraldo, the In-Charge of MM's supply office.

Peraldo, in his testimony, said Puyatasio forged his signature.



Jobless college graduates told to join police force

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MAKATI CITY, DECEMBER SET as job fair in the police.

This is President Macapagal-Arroyo's advice to the army of jobless college graduates in the country.

The President made the remarks during a recent visit to the Caloocan City police headquarters where she held a dialogue with barangay officials.

"We know that there are many college graduates who do not have jobs. We have 3,000 openings [at the Philippine National Police] for college graduates. So if you are a college graduate and jobless, get a job in the police," Ms Arroyo said in Filipino.

The President said the P9,000 which has a force of 114,000 as present, will be hiring 3,000 policemen this year, and another 3,500 next year.

But under PNP law, applicants must have college degrees to qualify as members of the police force, she said.

"I am not clear on whether interested college graduates would have to undergo further training or schooling with the Philippine National Police Academy before they can become part of the PNP.

Based on the PNP uniform salary scale as of July 2002, the lowest rank of policeman (PO1) gets a base pay of P8,895 a month. This is less than the P10,000 that entry-level call center agents get in the booming outsourcing industry.

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Committee on Awards, invites qualified and interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Uniforms for PEZA Security Guards.
2. Bidders should be licensed security agencies duly registered with the Philippine Security Agency or any other government agency authorized to issue such registration.
3. Bidders shall submit their bids, which must be duly signed by their authorized representatives, in sealed envelopes, stamped with the words "BID FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF UNIFORMS FOR PEZA SECURITY GUARDS" and bearing the name and address of the bidder, at the PEZA Office at the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Roberts Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City, on or before 10:00 a.m. of 17 August 2007, which shall be the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids.
4. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the time and place specified above.
5. The PEZA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defect therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
PEZA, Roberts Avenue, Cubao
Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 441-7451 to 59 loc. 2111
Email: bac@pezza.com.ph

(Sgd.) ATTY. ERNESTO CARLOS
BAC Chairman

(PEZA - August 6 & 10, 2007)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF UNIFORMS FOR TRANSFEREES

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Committee on Awards, invites qualified and interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Uniforms for Transferees for CY 2007 (Phase 1) with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of P1,000,000.00.
2. Bidders should be licensed security agencies duly registered with the Philippine Security Agency or any other government agency authorized to issue such registration.
3. Bidders shall submit their bids, which must be duly signed by their authorized representatives, in sealed envelopes, stamped with the words "BID FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF UNIFORMS FOR TRANSFEREES" and bearing the name and address of the bidder, at the PEZA Office at the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Roberts Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City, on or before 10:00 a.m. of 17 August 2007, which shall be the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids.
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BAC Chairman

(PEZA - August 6 & 10, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RESOLUTION NO. 8264

In connection with the General Election to be held on the Second Monday of May 2007 for the purpose of electing the President and Vice-President of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, R.A. No. 9369, as implemented by Resolution No. 7837 dated 17 January 2007, and pursuant to the powers vested in the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), the following calendar of activities and periods of prohibited acts in connection with the October 29, 2007 Synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan and Barangay Elections:

DATE/PERIOD	ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS
August 15, 2007 (WED) to August 31, 2007 (FRI)	Inspection of Voting Polices	
August 31, 2007 (FRI)	Last day to file petition for inclusion in coverage with the proper municipal/city/district civil registrar and appearance before the said civil registrar on September 1, 2007	
September 14, 2007 (FRI)	Constitution of members of the Board of Election Tellers and organization of the Barangay Board of Canvassers	
September 15, 2007 (SAT)	Commission in the Commission's or the head's absence or indisposition, in the order provided by law, to receive the oath of candidates (Sec. 207 in relation to Sec. 268)	
September 15, 2007 (SAT) to October 28, 2007 (SUN)	Posting of the lists of (1) voters for purposes of the Synchronized Elections; (2) Sangguniang Kabataan Chairmanship Candidates; (3) Barangay Officials to be Elected (Resos)	
September 22, 2007 (SAT)		Violation of appointments, promotions, preferential treatment, dismissal, discipline, or policy changes in connection with the campaign (Comelec Res. 6713, par. 5(b))
September 22, 2007 (SAT) to November 11, 2007 (SUN), inclusive (Sec. 5(a), R.A. 9369 in relation to Sec. 15, R.A. 8436 as amended by R.A. 9189)	ELECTION PERIOD	Relocation of members of a person or establishment of offices (Comelec Res. 6713, par. 5(c))
		Major release of properties (Sec. 261 (v) (2007))
		Electing of funds (any election contest) (Comelec Res. 6713, par. 5(d))
		Carrying of firearms (especially weapons, including security personnel or employees of the candidate, etc. (Sec. 261 (p) (comelec Res. 6713, par. 5(e)) (Sec. 32, R.A. No. 7166)
		Organizing or maintaining caucus (Comelec Res. 6713 (c), par. 5(f))
		Transfer and detail of officers and employees in the civil service, including public school teachers (Sec. 261 (h), 2007)
		Use of security personnel or bodyguards by candidates, whether or not such personnel are employed by the government or officers of the Philippine National Police or any government agency, (Sec. 261 (i), 2007, as amended by Sec. 32, R.A. 9369)
		Suspension of any election personnel who participated in the barangay affairs (Sec. 261 (o) (2007))
October 4, 2007 (THU)	Deadline of notice of objection upon publication of the Commission of the Voter Registration Records compiled in the Board of Election Tellers for each barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (Sec. 5)	
October 11, 2007 (THU) to October 14, 2007 (SUN)	Filing of certificates of candidacy	
October 15, 2007 (MON) to October 28, 2007 (SUN)	Inspection and verification of Commissioners of the Election Registration Boards and Boards of Election Tellers; Records and custody of Election Returns and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (Resos)	
October 15, 2007 (MON) to October 27, 2007 (SAT)	**CAMPAIGNING**	Posting, distributing or displaying campaign materials outside authorized stations (Sec. 89, 2007)
October 15, 2007 (MON) to October 28, 2007 (SUN)	Holding of barangay assemblies and consultation fora (Sec. 51, 2007)	Maintaining, obtaining or contracting security services from any person or entity engaging in conducting the activities of such person or entity (Sec. 89, 2007)
		Making any donation in cash or in kind to any person (Sec. 104, 2007)
		Use of armored/bullet-proof automobiles (Sec. 261 (v), 2007)
		Negotiating or using special arrangement, contract, agreement or understanding (Sec. 261 (m), 2007)
		Construction or maintenance of permanent, semi-permanent or temporary public works and buildings (Sec. 3, R.A. 6975)
October 28, 2007 (SUN)	**END OF ELECTION PERIOD**	Campaigning (Sec. 3, 1987)
		Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, securing or taking intoxicating liquor (Sec. 261 (d) (1), 2007)
		Bringing, accompany into the precincts food items, packages of rolled (Sec. 261 (dd), 2007)
		Wear, bear, transport or display any campaign apparel or accessories (all election

The Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director for Operations shall immediately implement this Resolution.

The Executive and Administrative Management Service is directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Resolution and its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

The Secretary shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication.

SO ORDERED.

(Sgd.) BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR. — Chairman
(Sgd.) RESURRECCION Z. BORRA — Commissioner
(Sgd.) FORTUNATO T. GARCIA, JR. — Commissioner
(Sgd.) NICOLAS A. BRIONES — Commissioner
(Sgd.) RENE V. SARMIENTO — Commissioner
(Sgd.) ANTONIO M. KHO — Commissioner

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RESOLUTION NO. 8265

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Executive Order No. 96 dated March 3, 1987 provides as follows:

"Sec. 3. **Prohibition on barangay officials.** – No barangay official shall be appointed as members of the Board of Election Inspectors, Board of Election Tellers, Board of Canvassers, Municipal Treasurer, and Barangay Treasurer, and Barangay Secretary, or any other duty inspector, policeman or any other duty inspector of election duty, election assistant.";

WHEREAS, the barangay is the smallest political unit of government and it is a policy to maintain the integrity, independence and impartiality of the Boards of Election Inspectors and Boards of Canvassers;

WHEREAS, public school teachers, who are employees and registered voters of the city or municipality, are usually appointed as members of the Board of Election Inspectors and Board of Canvassers pursuant to Section 42 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, as amended, and function as the reading and counting of votes in each precinct;

WHEREAS, records of last political elections show that in certain cases, the Commission on Elections received complaints against some public school teachers officials and employees who were appointed as members of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) and Board of Canvassers (BOC) for partisan political activities in favor of candidates;

WHEREAS, the BEIs are charged with the duty of maintaining regularity and orderliness of the election proceedings and to count and return the votes in accordance with the law;

NOW, THEREFORE, on the authorities and under constituting agency of election laws, to insure that elections are honest, orderly, peaceful and credible, the Commission on Elections, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVES, that:

1. The appointment of barangay officials which includes the Punong Barangay, Barangay Kagawad, Barangay Secretary, Barangay Treasurer, and Barangay Tanod, as Chairperson and/or Member of the BEI and BOC is not an official duty of the barangay official concerned. Hence, the barangay official concerned may refuse the appointment as Chairperson, Member of the BEI and BOC and the Barangay Secretary and the Barangay Treasurer, of the Canvass of the BOC, and Tanod and Barangays are not the functions. The prohibition applies to barangay officials, employees and staff who are not members of the Sangguniang Kabataan.

2. The barangay official, employees, and staff who are charging public duty shall be excused by their respective offices, in accordance with the law, during election day.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately after the publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

The Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for Operations shall immediately implement this Resolution.

The Executive and Administrative Management Service is directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Resolution and its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

The Secretary shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication.

SO ORDERED.

(Sgd.) BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR. — Chairman
(Sgd.) RESURRECCION Z. BORRA — Commissioner
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(Sgd.) NICOLAS A. BRIONES — Commissioner
(Sgd.) RENE V. SARMIENTO — Commissioner
(Sgd.) ANTONIO M. KHO — Commissioner

(COMELEC - August 6 & 10, 2007)

Pete Roa signs off at 67

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TELEVISION EXECUTIVE PETE ROA DIED yesterday at the Capitol Medical Center in Quezon City. He was 67.

His widow actress/hosts Susan Roa said the immediate cause of death was pneumonia and cardiac arrest.

"For his lingering affliction was cancer of the stomach, which had metastasized to the bones and lungs," she said.

Roa's stellar broadcast career at the Arlington Financial Avenue–Greenhills base spanned for Tuesday, Aug. 14, after the Mass. His ashes will be interred at the St. Therese Columbarium.

"My mom gives time to prepare by the Lord since the diagnosis of his illness six months ago," said actress Roa.

"In fact, two weeks ago, Pete and I discussed the final details of his interment plans. He specified that he wanted a cremation and that a convert be held on the last night of the wake," she said.

Actress Roa said her late husband had loved music, so "he wanted his last night to be a sing-along with his friends."

Roa, who became host, actor, director, producer and network executive in a long career in the broadcast industry, started as a disc jockey (above) for two hourly sets of high school in the late 1950s.

"I was studying at the National Teachers College. A teacher's salary was stunning (63% excited me to join the radio station," Roa told the Inquirer in one of his last interviews in June.

The radio prodigy crossed over to other media. He hosted the ABC 5 youth program, "Dance-O-Rama," and the ABS-CBN variety shows, "The Slide O'Brien Show," in the early 1960s.

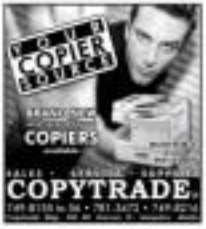
He also appeared in sitcoms (ex, dare) and produced TV shows, and worked as administrative manager of ABS-CBN until a year before the declaration of martial law in 1972.

At ABS-CBN, he handled some of the most popular shows during the Golden Age of Philippine television—"Johnny Antipo," "Hide-Holder Show," and "Oras ng Lapya," among others.

He is survived by four children and nine grandchildren.

Roa "kept his license until the end," said Actress Roa.

"My son-in-law Dantjoels Ang-Lee Robbie Poans joked with him. He asked Pete: 'What would you like us to buy for Mama after your passing?' Pete quipped: 'Another set!' Before [illegible] eye. He was a such a charmer."



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New Revolutionary CLEAR Now in the Philippines

New Clear Anti-Dandruff shampoo. Clear is an authority on the scalp, providing active breakthrough for dandruff and scalp problems. Ordinary shampoos just wash away dandruff superficially as dandruff comes back again and again. Clear nourishes the scalp from within to prevent dandruff (i.e. visible flakes) from coming back. Clear is the only shampoo to be endorsed by the International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology.

Clear has a range of anti-dandruff solutions that is specifically formulated to address the unique scalp needs of dandruff sufferers, offering a Unisex Range with four shampoo variants and three variants for men.

Get silky soft hair with Clear's Complete Soft Care shampoo, an anti-frizz scalp with Clear it Ish Control, stronger strands with Clear's Hairfall Defense and a refreshed scalp with Clear Ice Cool shampoo.

Men's needs are taken into consideration with Clear's Hairfall Defense, which addresses male's propensity for hair loss due to hair breakage. Clear Activ3pro, which takes care of men's tendency to excess sweat and Clear Style Express, which allows the man and contemporary due it's men's on-the-go lifestyles.

For more information, visit www.CLEAR.com.ph.

On pages B7 and B10 of today's Lifestyle section, this article first appeared were based on the following sources:

Scalp Condition Poses Potentially Devastating Social Impact

Quezon: Research on this article were taken from:

Hyung Ho Ko and Thomas L. Diepgen
Department of Dermatology, College of Medicine, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, Korea; Hallym Univ. Medical Center, Chuncheon, The Republic of Korea; Department of Dermatology, University Medical Center, Mainz, Germany

AP Reports 45 Dandruff: 44% of Filipinos Still Have It

Quezon: Research on this article were taken from:

Hyung Ho Ko and Thomas L. Diepgen
Department of Dermatology, College of Medicine, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, Korea; Hallym Univ. Medical Center, Chuncheon, The Republic of Korea; Department of Dermatology, University Medical Center, Mainz, Germany
Scott E. Elewski
Department of Dermatology, University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama, USA
C. Piérard-Franchimont, V. Quilin, E. Henry, L. L'Ecuhi, C. Bodaan and G.E. Piérard
Department of Dermatopathology, University Medical Center, Sart Tilman, B-4000 Liège, Belgium

A CLEAR Ride Scalp Discrimination

Quezon: Research on this article were taken from:

Hyung Ho Ko and Thomas L. Diepgen, The Role of Sebaceous Gland Activity and Scalp Microflora in the Etiology of Seborrheic Dermatitis and Dandruff, Department of Dermatology, College of Medicine, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, Korea

On the bottom of P2, three fashion authorities gathered to sign a manifesto declaring a "Ban on Black" until such time that a 'Clear' solution to the problem is given.

Villar to coup plotters: Just do it

By Cil C. Cabanongan Jr.

JUST DO IT

This was the challenge of Senate President Manuel Villar to colleagues allegedly plotting to unseat him less than three weeks into the 14th Congress.

"Anybody who claims they can launch a coup against me should just go ahead and do it. I'm secure in my position and I believe the majority of senators are behind me," said Villar in an interview with reporters.

Villar said that while he might have shed four or five senator-rebels for reduced to numbers, he continued to stand by the senators in which he distributed the spoils in the Senate.

"I consulted each senator in the majority block and asked them what they want. The rest of committees I gave to the minority block to divide among themselves," said Villar.

Villar is reportedly losing a number from disgruntled senator spillagey over the committee position-they got and his ask to announce them even though most of the senators have not yet agreed on his appointments collectively.

But Sen. Mar Roxas said that Villar could be experiencing "down from no survey posture."

Roxas said that Villar had a tenuous hold on the Senate because of the "natural tendency" between his backers—which has 13 supporters were from pro-Arroyo while the remaining 6 were either independent or anti-Arroyo.

"It's like having half in between Roxas and the other half in Hell. In every issue, in every situation, there will always be debates," said Roxas who suggested that Villar learn to dance "dahling" in balancing the warring interests in his coalition.

As I recall, the grumblings came from members of the administration who are part of the majority. Perhaps, that is where these moves are coming," said Villar.

Opposition Sen. Aquilo Madrigal so used Villar of running the Senate into a "big stock market and trading floor where committee, like futures are given to the highest bidder and the sole motivation is profit and self-interest."

Madrigal gave a hint of the impending coup when she noted that the nine pro-Arroyo senators and eight anti-Arroyo senators "show their dissatisfaction to Villar's leadership."

Zubiri told to answer protest

By Lala B. Salaverria

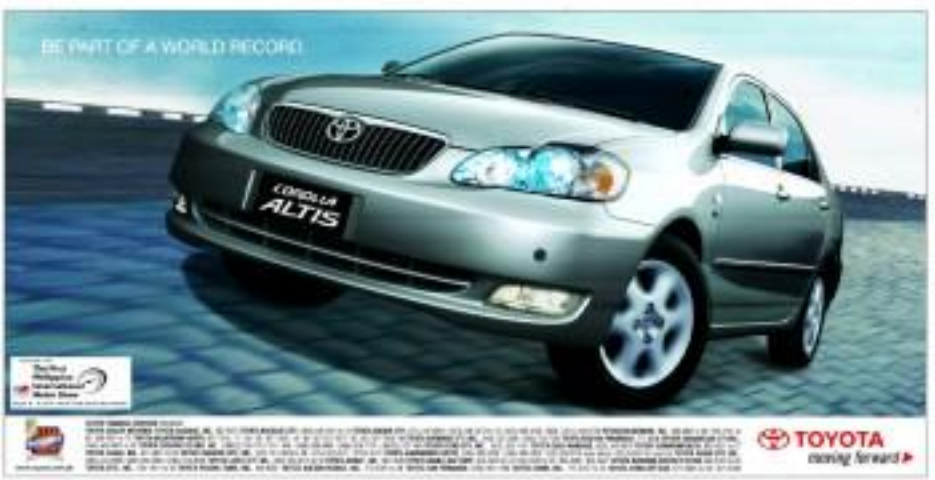
THE SUPREME COURT (SC) ruling in the Senate Electoral Tribunal, has directed Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri to answer the election protest of Aquilino Pimentel III.

The SET, headed by Supreme Court Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, also ordered the election and local government officials concerned in the provinces covered by Pimentel's protest to safeguard the ballot boxes and relevant documents contested in the May 14 polls that were in their possession.

The Commission on Elections was also ordered to preserve the poll documents and other materials pertaining to the same provinces that were in its custody.

The directive to Zubiri was delivered to his office on Aug. 2 and he was given 10 days to answer.

Zubiri and Pimentel, one of incumbent Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., had hotly contested the 12th and last winning Senate slot.



Palace undaunted by Loren's high rating

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG IS UNFAZED BY opposition Sen. Loren Legarda's leading the list of the names of presidential surveys trending up to the 2010 elections.

"We just have to say that maybe at this moment it's good that Senator Legarda continues with her popularity but we do not know—many things can happen," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

Asked by a reporter if President Macapagal-Arroyo would "groom her (Legarda) from the opposition to be her successor," Ermita said: "As to whether she will be the one tapped ... many things can happen between now and 2010."

Ermita, however, was quick to add that he was "frankly the person to comment on such a question."

Legarda beat four other presidential hopefuls in public assessment and trust in the Pulse Asia's survey conducted from June 23 to July 15.

Legarda, who topped the May 14 senatorial election with 14 million votes, had a trust rating of 71 percent (76 percent total and 5 percent distrust).

She garnered viral, Sen. Mar Roxas II, got 56 percent. Senate President Manuel Villar scored 47 percent, Sen. Benigno Aquino received 38 percent and Vice President Noli de Castro got 23 percent in the survey.

In her State of the Nation Address on July 23, President Arroyo said: "All that will remain for my successor is to polish the layover. He or she will have an easier time of it than I did."

Speaker Jose de Venecia has said the Supreme he is not interested in running for president in 2010, being content with being a kingmaker.

His declaration has left the country's most powerful political coalition, the Lakas-CMD, with an almost presidential but architecture.

Say 'aab': GMA sees dentist

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO took a break from a busy schedule yesterday to attend to an appointment that couldn't wait—a visit to her dentist.

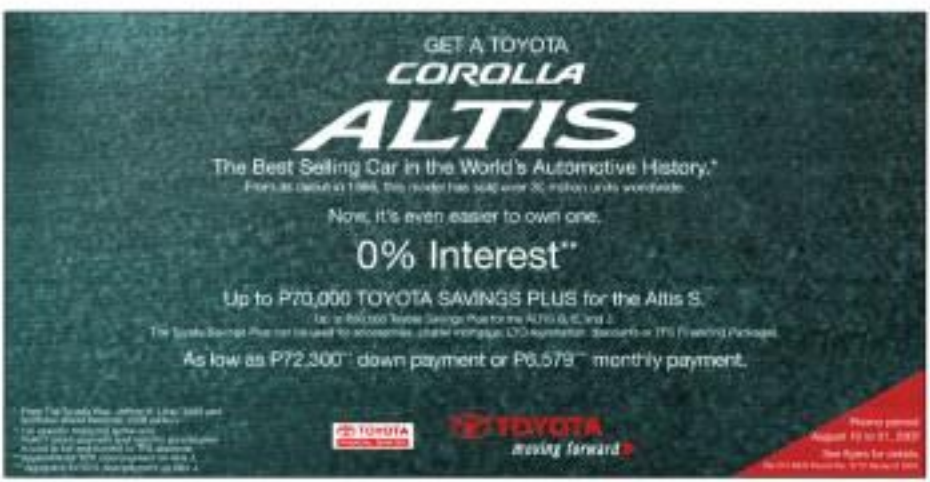
Mrs. Arroyo, special Sunday visits, which took her yesterday to Cubao-on QIV where she held a consultation with officials of Barangay 75 at the Cubao-on City police headquarters. Mr. Arroyo took a detour for a "personal" engagement, according to the Presidential Security Group hospital.

PSG commander Brig. Gen. Nestor Pereyra gave assurance that the visit did not involve anything serious. Last May the President had some tooth filled.

He said the President had originally scheduled her dental procedure for last Sunday but failed to go because of her hectic schedule.

Pereyra said the Presidential had always availed herself of the services of Malacañang's dental facilities.

Juliet Labog-Javellana



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Your feedback (register via internet/text message to 2267 (INQ) or 283 forum)

Looks like rain

A WEEK AFTER GALVANIZED CARDINAL ROSALES, the Archbishop of Manila, called on the clergy in his archdiocese to pray for rain, and a street dance after the Sunday Masses in the area resounded with the "erotic tropicals of yesteryears' favorites." Heroically, obliging, heavy prayer is imagined for rain (that he had ordered read in all churches and shrines, the lawyers obliged and the rains fell.

EDITORIAL

It's almost enough, one could be forgiven for thinking, to make an unfairness question his unbelief.

But we will leave the catechism business to the catechists. Our interest is in understanding how the cardinal's appeal check light on present-day society. Not the sweet irony of seemingly answered prayers—what does that say about the times we live in? But the cardinal's appeal, his characteristic return to nature.

Here's the thing. In our responses to the drought and the looming power shortages, our true character stands revealed. Shorn with a natural calamity, the archbishop called on the God of all nature. "We implore the master of all creation, God, our father, at whose command the winds and the seas obey, to send us rain," Rosales wrote in the letter to his priests.

Faced with the current state crisis, Malacañang called... for emergency powers. "In the situation we're in, I'm very sure that there's nothing that would prevent us from asking Congress for emergency powers," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said, on the same day Rosales circulated his letter.

There is, of course, a great difference between the roles of a religious leader and a government official; we certainly do not mean to say that it would have been better if Malacañang had issued the call for prayers. That would have been an admission of incompetence, or perhaps of panic. We also do not mean to suggest that the Executive has done nothing regarding the crisis. Yes, certainly the red carpet was pulled from under President Macapagal-Arroyo's feet a week after her State of the Nation Address, after it became clear that the worst crisis of the year had not even figured in her speech. But mitigation measures are in place, and various agencies of the Executive are dealing with contingency plans.

But while some insisted the cardinal's utterance were futile in "the matter of all creation," many more attacked the executive secretary's almost naïvesuit faith in mere power.

Of course, any talk of emergency powers has now dissipated, in the wake of this week's rains.

To be sure, the dry spell is far from over. The rains the two stories brought in the last couple of days raised the water level in Angat Dam by only a fraction. And people have died and thousands have been displaced as a result of the weather.

Forgotten amid the collective sighing in relief, however, is another, equally vital part of the cardinal's message, the opposite all the faithful to make conservation possible by "sharing" one's resources. In his letter, Rosales prayed that God "move us to share more, to serve more and to love more," and that the Creator "inspire us in this time of crisis to share ... what we have and to take responsibility for one another and for the environment and resources you have generously provided us."

This is the true sacrifice: to cite the counter-instinctive thing, and share ready or new resources with one another.

How is that even possible? Catechists will have a ready answer. They will point to the famous miracle of the Multiplication of Loaves, the one where Christ's disciples scrounge around for food to feed a multitude, and manage to gather five loaves and two fish. And the catechists will point out the real miracle: that exhausted and hungry men and women were moved to share their meager resources with everyone else.

That Malacañang could not issue a similar call, even if it wanted to, says much about our life and times.

Pride and glory

FORDIN COMMENT

A FEW MONTHS SINCE NO ONE LIKE IRAQ AN ICON OF shame in the Asian Cup football championship. The cohort Sunday brought overtones in their names back the Blues, the Socceroos, the Brazilians, the Samurai children this opportunity to repair its sins, as brothers and a chance to forget the misery of the past few years.

Iraq's spirited 1-0 victory one night's South Arabia in the final caused a divided land in a way that transcends sectarian and religious divisions.

The triumph, we hope, will lessen the hatred, ing process and help ing occupiers in pride of place among destruction and, the glory of the past.

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PAL: Stop unfair competition in 'open skies'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL CONCESSION. The chairman of airlines in exchange for more tourists? This ongoing controversy was one of the topics at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila in which the open skies were Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Peñaflorida, Robert Jean Barbier, parent manager and CEO of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA), Jose Clemente III, president of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association (PTTA), and John J. Gray, vice president, and Jose Jesus de Vega, assistant vice president, of Philippine Airlines.

Many members of the association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) airlines that operate in the Philippines are banned by operating more than 10 unlimited flights by foreign airlines. The logic is that the more airlines come in, the more tourists they bring. So, Asean member nations are now negotiating the implementing rules of the "open skies" policy.

The problem is that the flights into a country is usually determined by bilateral agreements between two countries. You let four flights a week of one airlines into your country and we will let four flights a week of your planes into our country. But with "open skies," there is no limit to the number of flights into another country except that the country is nothing but one plane into the other country. The logic is that competition among the different airlines will force them down and therefore encourage more tourists to visit.

But competition is more than that. The airlines must compete on an equal footing. And that is not what is happening. Some airlines have an unfair advantage over their competitors. They are subsidized by their governments. They can therefore underprice competitors—the ones not so subsidized.

For example, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways International, Malaysian Airlines, Emirates, Qatar Airways and other carriers are heavily subsidized by their respective governments. The US government has granted more than $11 billion to 111 American carriers in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Many US carriers that are currently operating under bankruptcy protection are still on state aid. Mexico also granted $100 million to save Mexicana Airlines and Mexicana Airlines. The British government has given a compensation package of 40 million pounds to British carriers affected by 9/11.

In Asia, Japan Air Systems and all Nippon Airways were given $500 million in emergency state loans from Russia, Indonesia and Asian nations were given $100 million in financial aid by Seoul. Asian flag carriers, except for our PAL, are either fully or partially owned or subsidized by their governments. (Asean includes all Philippines, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Vietnam and Lao Peoples Democratic Republic.)

This unfair advantage of state-supported airlines over private airlines is criminal, with good reason. Quinoa cautioned foreign governments for unfairly subsidizing their airlines which operate in Australia. Caribbean also for the undue incentives given to the competition and called for a ban on subsidies. The European Union prohibits investment in airlines. Foreign carriers that received state aid, resulting in unfair pricing practices.

PAL, the only private-owned flag carrier in Asean, says that subsidies and other forms of state aid "can include direct compensation," adding that there should be "equal opportunity" for all in an "open skies" regime. If Asean wants to liberalize the airline industry to encourage tourists, PAL said, governments must first establish all airlines on their flag carriers in order to have fair competition. There should be a level playing field.

PAL, which was nationalized scandalously several years ago, requested a record profit of $140.5 million for fiscal year 2006-2007, the airline's first profitable year in years. It has applied to exit from receivership by the end of the year with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This it was able to do without any subsidy from the government. But its record of being privatized for the very second time around is being punished by our government by accepting the "open skies" policy with subsidies.

The unfair competition PAL suffers from foreign airlines endangers its financial health.

As I see it, it would be difficult to subsidize other countries' airplanes subsidized, as their flag carriers. I think it is unfair to ask our citizens if they want to give financial aid to their airlines. So, if only countries do not stop their subsidies to their airlines, shouldn't the Philippine government stop the unfair playing field by giving subsidy to its flag carrier, too?

• • •

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim has feuded Undersecretary Ruben Ancheta over the proposed construction of the Paranaque-to-Cavite-to-Laguna-to-Mayon-to-Cebu-to-Davao-to-Zamboanga-to-Sulu-to-Tawi-Tawi-to-Palawan-to-Batanes-to-Aparri-to-Manila (PLDT Corporation) telephone line owned by the Commission on Audit (COA) and charges of massive corruption filed by Senators and others. I asked Senator Aquilino Pimentel, the Nationalista Opposition's, wall of the new presidium. Members of the Board of Regents, whom then Mayor Lim Antonio entered to investigate Sandoz but did nothing, will be replaced as soon as or before their terms of office expire.

Who will be the next Jonas Burgos?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

MONDAY THIS WEEK MARKED THE 100TH day of the disappearance of Jonas Burgos, the most recent victim of a pitch-dog team of disappearances that the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Killings has called a "continued Elite Commando-like disappearance."

Other troubled governments have investigated the limits of domestic remedies, and found the cases enough to leave that the international community should step in. Nowhere since it emerged in Latin America in the 1970s. It is time we realized that Jonas, his lovely mother Edita, and his family are not the only victims here. We are all stakeholders now, and there is a joint responsibility world out there to protect us from the rogue police and military national hooligans atop the killings.

We have begun to reform our domestic remedies. Amid family has cited before the courts due to a writ of habeas corpus, and the military is pressed, in response, to deny that they are or have been in their custody, thus hoping to freeze the pictures. But as I have written since more before, it is not enough for government merely to work its hands. In the words of Sen. Dufflocat, a professor at the University of Sudbury, and chief legal counsel to Canada's Law Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law: "silent tolerance may amount to complicity when just before the same participation" because it has material effects simply "by the impression that it makes." It is in some respects the set of cases for which government is held responsible only when there is a specific pre-established legal duty in this case, to preserve life.

A state prosecutor has been tasked by his boss, the secretary of justice, for investigating why the case into which Jonas was taken from military places. The Supreme Court is drafting new rules to expand the remedies available to grieving families and enable the courts to seek out the victims more actively, conduct quick searches for military records and detention facilities, and ensure that the soldiers manning the camps don't leave the cases' orders.

But other governments have done much more and have voluntarily opened themselves to international inquiries. A similar move will boost public confidence in the President's State of the Nation Address condemning the murdering members of both wing persons. It will at least remove the impression that the killings are the work, from within Malacañang, the others have already linked to the killings, during last year's times.

By way of example, the United Nations has created a Special Tribunal to investigate the murder of the former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who was killed in downtown Beirut by a car bomb with a charge equivalent to 1,000 kilograms of TNT. The attack was considered an "abhorrent" Dec. 2005, and by March 29, the Lebanese government itself supported the creation of the tribunal. It is made up of international independent commission "to assist the Lebanese authorities in their investigation of all aspects of the terrorist act." No need to worry about the emotionally-charged issue of sovereignty, the international commission worked "within the framework of Lebanese sovereignty and of its legal system." Indeed, it set out this path, we take an intermediate step between a wholly international-led arena on nothing for government and a wholly domestic arena unsupported by the arena.

There are distinct advantages in enlisting foreign assistance. To start with, perhaps it might actually produce concrete results. Remember that no Philippine court, can even dare the Philippine President, Judge Commission, has ever held Richard Melo or (to his name responsible for any human rights violations from the time martial law was declared on Sept. 21, 1972 to his ouster during the Edsa-yari uprising in 1986. Indeed, the only cases that have dared to do so were those of Honasan and of Ramos, and they have been dismissed. Honasan remains murdered due to internal administrative steps before Philippine courts.

As a nation, we have had no choice to date but to acquiesce in our history. To conclude to know perpetrators of crimes and cheer with the Filipino people openly seek the Filipino law from Sen or Park Chung Hee. With regard to the despots-to-be, without an independent fact-finding, their borrowed families are disenchanted enough to their claim of justice. Without the right to know what happened to their loved ones.

Finally, the investigate underwritten comes from a speech delivered before the UN Security Council and voting by the investigative team would be free from the bias or bandying. One diplomat stated: "We have also learned that justice is a powerful tool in our peace." Political interventions could lead to strife, conflict and war. "The creation of an investigative commission is a good and powerful message. It is a practical step toward ending impunity, bringing justice and support for all efforts to see that justice is done." The UN panel quoted him as saying that "today, the Council has only cast a vote for peace and justice, but also struck a blow against those who have carried political accommodation to new lows and new lows."

This statement was made by Burgos Secretary Alberto G. Romulo at the 5,587th Meeting of the UN Security Council. Should it come to pass that the same body is called upon to take up the emergency for Manila, we must remind the Philippine government of Romulo's statement, and put the Arroyo administration to welcome. It is unwise, foreign statement as vindicating the fundamental human liberties that it has failed, time and again, to protect.

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A floating majority

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

THE LITMUS TEST OF WHETHER THE OPPOSITION has gained itself in the commanding heights of the future to control the legislative agenda during the remaining years of the Arroyo administration and extend its nuisance-consciousness is the distribution of the 26 Senate committee chairmanships, especially that of the political, 9-strategic Blue Ribbon committee.

Right now, the opposition should be calling the shots as to who should be Senate president, who chairs the key committees as well as policy issues (such as, those on secrecy, human rights, the economy) and the six budgets, as every day that sees the balance of power drawn by the results of the May election.

The nonparticipation of the Senate, following the confirmation of Manuel Villar as Senate president, does not follow the conventional wisdom that the majority party in the Senate or majority majority in the votes belong the spoils. It does not reflect the fall in the fortunes of power after 7-3-2 result of the Senate election and is to be considered as having resulted in the frustration of a new opposition-dominated majority in the chamber.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel Senate president on the strength of the like of nine administration senators, plus five (one "independent" and three who defected from the opposition ranks), all of whom are calling themselves the "majority bloc." This is a majority majority that cannot be identified with any ideology or policy program they believe in and values principles they share.

All one decides from the "majority" bloc is that the eight opposition senators "cannot have endured by the election of Villar as Senate president on the numbers—essentially those in the opposition in the roll call of manner. In Real counting, majority can be fixed up to ensure the gathering of votes by the majority party, as shown by numbers tapped on their prime ministers, their names forgotten, although they were all present really knotted in Jeer.

Then, the new alignment of "majority" and "minority" in the Senate, following its temporary unrest, has blunted all policy or ideological identities once and all. Statements and has deteriorated into when may apply to called the "politics of no more to tell call"—a head count of others lined up either as cannon fodders for the vote on legislation or as leader-day clubber says in the chamber.

The "bloc" in the majority of the other side, that is the bolters or how to define the political loyalty of members of the administration Senate alignment, a party provided by the selection of Sen. Aloy Peter Lapitan as chair of the blue ribbon committee.

Since Villar has not declared including the motivation of the majority of the Senate on the executive as the primary prerequisite of the senators and the member canvassed as those by the blue election, the characterization of the committee is crucial to keeping this pledge. Its powers gives to "independents" invoke the new ideological and non-policy nexus of Villar's big shadow agenda, more independent is not about program endorsed.

In emphasizing the oversight and investigative functions of the Senate to "keep the executive from run" rather than the passing of bills such more productive term does not concerning the and symbol. The priority has put the Senate on the path of being a prolific oversight producers plant rather than a lawmaking body. Legislation designed as views or checkmate policies embodied in coalitions to the 2007 Human Security Act and its

horse does would help to save the lot of debts.

The choice of Guingona as itself is a product of a political compromise. President Macapagal Arroyo did not want her hands tied by senators other than the pointed to favor list. Johnny Ancier endorsed as blue ribbon chair, but had to make sure to the assurance of the opposition that the committee should be chaired by one of its kind, consistent with the tradition of the May election that it claim to have given the opposition the mandate to take control of key committees.

The senator who wanted the most to put the committee under control of an opposition member were Sens. Francis Pangilinan, who said that senators were within the election results, the chair should go to a senator most identified with the opposition than with the administration. "The committee role is by an lawyer, who has been entrusted as not with no the administration," he said. Pangilinan is among the Congress investigations that militate against but have drawn to the "Iron Palm" accusals.

Pangilinan himself does not possess important public credentials to speak as a true blue opposition member. He is not as "independent" as definitely as his colleagues who defected to the majority bloc. Guingona himself has some under fire for breaking ranks with the opposition in joining nine administration members in the coalition to elect Villar senate president.

Upon whether the opposition will be more liberal committees, Guingona signaled hostilities by playing hide-and-seek. He told the Blue ribbon chair not to consider shoulds he pursue who have the "highest credibility to the electorate." He added: "Recalling our statements to present, in general, the public does not rate our anti-graft testimonies."

Speaking of credibility, it was quickly noted by his camp than Guingona's credibility was damaged when the Senate Ethics Committee, on which Guingona is the senior member, found Pangilinan guilty of violations that were Guingona's own. Miguel Zubiri maintained were reasons to demand leaks.

A toxic legacy

AT LARGE

Rose Jimenez-Gavil

public values but compared child pleaded with him: "Your turn is coming, Mommy, after adult have" You have to protect me from him."

The public knows by now what happened after Carol with a temperate parties that aided it until it, getting kidnapped and confined to an alleged three-million-peso ransom note for the release. In his petition to declare Carol insane, SC even accuses a huge cast of wrongdoers, including the editor of this paper, of plotting against him and thereby pushing Carol over the edge.

Though he had drafted a sound defense, GO managed to hold off arraignment for many days, until an SC team, acting on a petition filed by SC's estranged wife and children from both extramarriage, descended on the cardiac unit and ordered Carol, lying on a bed, to sign a charge of cattle against his children.

In a statement, SC's lawyers say that the Gozon children "are not other SC's family, but his mistress," accusing them of having shot their father's head. Saying they wanted on the drafting of Lanzo Foundation, the statement says SC submits to having donated a billion pesos to the foundation, which has established on "good works" like distributing relief goods to typhoon-stricken areas, giving scholarships to underprivileged students, throwing free million twenties, and sponsoring the mass baptisms of 20,000 children.

It's my thesis evaluation paper prepared upon the request of the Gozon children, his wife and long-time partner, Dr. Susan Carol Roces-Reyes, a psychiatrist, says that "as a depressive that SC be admitted to a hospital where he can be properly medically evaluated and managed."

Among the issues cited by Carol's drafting are a "strong potential for harming self," as evidenced by a "history of excessive suicidal ideation", "a strong potential to be of harm to others" as seen from the testimonies regarding his despair and violent behavior, "psychosis of psychotic symptoms," including "auditory and visual hallucinations", and other health problems: he have, such as hypertension, diabetes, bone disease and kidney and liver problems.

His children are also said to be in touch with mental health professionals and patients in a united bond to keep it under ES, say the brother's response could be narrowed up under the overwhelming term of "borderline personality disorder." The testimony of Dr. Ma. Cristina Bautista of Makati Medical describes it as a "serious mental illness characterized by pervasive instability in moods, interpersonal relationships, self-image and behavior." BPD, says the same source, is "more common than schizophrenia or manic depression, affecting more than 2 percent of adults. In the US, as many as the 20 percent of psychiatric hospitalizations."

THE SAME website says it is possible for people with BPD to achieve some kind of emotional and mental stability through a combination of therapy, medication and behavior modification.

Through it all, SC's children say all they want is "to get our very ill father the help he needs." Or, in the words of Carol himself: "I know all his sources; it, some again, prove—to us no that will have to save his him, yes again."

Even so, SC's advocates has already deeply affected his family. His loyalty than on the day of the arrest, Carol and his wife Cielo Gozon-Yabut filed the petition charges, he and his siblings exchanged phone calls where they shared their feelings of happiness, a feeling that had been elusive for much of their lives. But while they could not relate it, something for the other about to drop, as it did. That's their father's secret: a legacy, that even when happy, the children just could not quite trust their feelings.

Pasma (Part 2)

LAST WEDNESDAY, I WROTE ABOUT A STUDY CONDUCTED at UP's College of Medicine about nurses. Are our nurses safe here that the study a very preliminary to assess and the physiologic responses, which concluded by the study, should be expanded their research. In addition to a phlebotomy class once-passed 17 laryngoscopies who completed about pasma and 16 women sat-based, taking their medical history and doing various tests, mostly with the nurses' consent.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tee

The women's descriptions of pasma were graphic, using words like "bigat" (heavy), "antok" and "quilay" (ill-defined sensations associated with pain and numbness), "antok" (associated political or unsafe strategy, stereotype, irregularity) and, surprisingly, only four-and-a-half percent "kirot" (pain). The illness is a quite a continuum to a primary of "hot" (usually external sources) and "cold" (resulting with self-cause).

Most of the medical men in the UP study didn't yield statistically significant differences between the women with and without pasma. Many of the symptoms found in the typical pasma group generally took longer to return their blood pressure and pulse to normal after exposure, showing the researchers have to do pasma and other stressors, showing the researchers have to do pasma other people with pasma might be more vulnerable to stressors.

The researchers did find that the pasma-prone women tend to take longer wash hours—and while laundry pasma is really an illness pasma to young, the researchers found that women with pasma usually had longer washing hours, rather than the morning itself.

My pasma-prone boss is that it doesn't really matter using or washing clothes at the end of the day—the stress that "causes" pasma. The study suggests another cause in the stressors, or not you can't really establish direct causation anyway. What you do find is correlation, and that can involve many factors.

"Years ago, I had a physician, Bojos de la Cruz, as a pasma and medical anthropology case to Lorna nursing and he did a very different of the food of Filipinos. I was so impressed with the view that I kept it all these years.

Dr. de Cruz had taken off from considering I had discovered in that, about how illnesses can often be "idioms of distress," ways the tough which people communicate emotions that are taboo, difficult to express. Dr. de Cruz began by having a group discussions involving four of his family's household help: a laundrywoman, a cook, a plantation (an evening woman) and someone who handled the cleaning. He asked them to define pasma and discuss its causes, signs and symptoms, treatment, prevention and complications. His answers were quite similar to those of the women in the pasma study, although the laundrywoman also had a pasma-prone boss who believed pasma led to various sexual problems, indicating how pasma is seen as an affliction of the upper classes.

The helpers also agreed about the making of hot and cold, as the causes of pasma, and about the signs of pasma (weakness and colors and tremors). Treatment was more varied: coconut oil, alcohol and, yes, that notorious remedy, urine. Preventive methods also had a pasma-prone body before getting it wet, especially if with cold water.

Dr. de Cruz, who had a philosophy degree before entering medicine, offers many interesting ideas on the issue of medicalization. He was intrigued, for example, by how the illness always involves a low body's exposure to cold rather than the other way around, to which the laundrywoman replied: good point and it's not to himself, as once person who has done pasma, and that's why it's called pasma. Also, going to work and getting "hot," blow that's "icing" and does not cause illness. The other way around though, moving illness by from "hot" to "cold" isn't right, and therefore produces illness.

But he eventually turned to on the medical causes, noting how it is not "nothing or coming just to, but "coming up pasma" and "subsiding pasma" (movements wash and hotspot) are sure to leading to pasma. Again, there is some kind of basis of what might be termed as an act of work or weakness, and it is the source that brings about illness.

Let's not forget the role of the media in findings. The UP researchers noted that women with pasma, when taking pasmatic seem, would have higher blood pressure than the women without pasma. Not only that, it took longer for their blood pressure to re-gain to normal.

We see one possible explanation here. One is that the women with pasma may actually have been under greater stress at what the researchers call "cumulative effects of stressors." They had, after all, found that the women with pasma had longer work hours. It's been a model-pressure rather of overworking.

I once wrote, though, if women with pasma might genuinely react more strongly to stressors, meaning all other physiological changes that lead to the sensors and the screening. That will have to be established through further research.

Meanwhile though, I'd look into Boyet de la Cruz's findings as well, even if he's not a nurse. I'm sure Dr. de la Cruz-Reyes-Abaya's case perspectives of pasma as "out-and" and "unsaturated," and how much of the "saturated" one-can relax. People that express when they think a "saturated" or excess of "solving pasma" and "solving malaise." There's an interface between biology and culture of pasma: feeling malaise, which they then express as pasma. Or, in the case of the laundrywoman, more symbolic to demonstrate the "saturated."

So, when your household helpers express fears of pasma, or complain that they have pasma, you should see this as a polite way of complaining about the work load. Don't think that "it's just pasma" and that's all. Pasma is a culturally-specific psychological stress leads to very real physical signs and symptoms. Even dizziness or mental fatigue when one is going to, and are adult complaints all the more about "headaches" from our colleagues at work. In our spontaneous reflection, we have to see to our to-do list of work a headache or headache, and we have to see to our to-do list. A good employer should be sensitive enough to reduce the work load, but he end up with more than anyone else that "pasma" and set his conscience.

And like in the movies, let me end with the credits. The UP study was coded "Clinical and Biopsychological Profile of Laundrywomen with and without Self-perceived Pasma: A Cross-Sectional Review." those are the principal Nobel Prize awardees in medicine: Mikaela Mikkila A. Ann, Stephanie G. Katalbas, Darwin John P. Labra, Maria Clarissa C. Lingat, Annabelle Michelle Lim, Jamie Abcede B. Lu, Gracielle Bernice L. Lu, Ernesto Rodrigo C. Maala, Melissa Ramon D. Lim, Mabel Christine F. Lopez, Rosalie Mae F. Magallon, Maria Monika Assisi B. Manuel, Jose Rafael A. Mather, Deiden C. Mesinger, Ma. Aurora F. Mercado and Kevin P. Montes (Pillers.) They were supervised by the Department of Physiology's faculty: Dr. Rosario Ara Evangelista, Dr. Antonio Fausto and Dr. Rhea Medina-Inah.

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Crossing the race barrier

LOOKING BACK

Anthony M. Dizon-Anselo

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PUZZLE TO ME THAT very little academic attention is focused on the Philippines in graduate and post-graduate university programs in Southeast Asia abroad. Maybe it's the fact that the Philippines isn't even a state in Burma (Myanmar) or Cambodia. Maybe it's the fact that a student or scholar does not have to leave Filipino to undertake research in the Philippines because they can get around with English. I have always wondered about the lack of attention to the Philippines in graduate schools to study their foreign overseas colony. To think that Filipino Americans must undertake academic research abroad because much of our library and archival holdings were destroyed during the Japanese occupation.

I also wonder why Filipino students are not given some Spanish or American history in order to help them understand the colonial days and the early decades (in republic today) closer to home and social memory.

Our high school history education in American history are filled by TV and movies, which are sometimes more effective than students or textbooks. For example, I remembered Nena Pesta (fifth reading) the memories of Victor Buenaventura, Bert Lahr and Ray Bolger in Wizard of Oz impressionist. She simply refused no more than a basic story has been reserved for others to a seat in the rear set aside for people of color. I had forgotten that segregation was also practiced in the Philippines during the colonial days. Many of the local people like Buenaventura and, of course, Manuel Quezon who literally avoided the law and made history that are barred unfortunately forgotten.

In his own reckoning, Victor Buenaventura's desire to have a chat he was the first Filipino to graduate from Harvard Business School and the first Filipino to hold the post of director of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the first Filipino to establish a veterinary hospital in the Philippines. He was one of those responsible for the founding of the College of Veterinary Science in the University of the Philippines.

I don't normally read material outside my area of expertise but happened on the other day by just and found I decided to sit down and see what Buenaventura had to say about the Philippines of the 1930s. What I found: the story of how he was able to win of the Founders of the present Philippine Columbian Association was founded 1907.

The Columbian today is better known to a certain set group, I used to see a couple look-outs of Jaya during Tuk Tuk Festival in Iloilo remembering to be used, and guarded Bureau of Immigration personnel? I didn't spot or used a couple look. I didn't realize that the Columbian was originally founded as a social club for Filipinos who were denied membership in other clubs for the like. Only Manila Golf Club, PMCA and the Army and Navy Club.

Buenaventura said nine other friends decided to found the Philippine Columbian Association exclusively for Filipinos who had studied in the United States. Later they relaxed membership rules, and Jose Rizal was considered a member but had not studied in the United States. The association became tremendously successful by the mid-1930s because the headquarters for the national Congress for Philippine Independence. Quezon held his secret meetings there.

Buenaventura said that segregation was not confined to "American-only" social clubs, but also to the dance floors of the Casino and hotels. Apparently, Quezon was the first to cross the line with the support of Bureau of Immigration Director Frank Bartlett, who should be better remembered with him the scene running along south point of Paris and Manila today. Harrison reserved a table for a small party at the Jai-Alai cabaret and was given one in the "Gentlemen only" section. Then the powers-that-be stepped in and said no guests, among them Manuel Quezon, Buenaventura Romero, Vicente Buenaventura and their ladies. The management was ordered to do anything to they told to the segregated part of the cabaret. Instead, the party remained in the cabaret, dancing and drinking all night, somewhat pleased inside so that no one was making a hole for it history. They are shrouded because the race barrier in these cases exclusively white citizens. Gradually the other exclusive clubs also dropped the color barrier.

Time has removed the cheap edges of colonial history. Many of us today exercise imagine that the only Filipinos allowed in the Manila Hotel were servants. Or that the Nicol-Black Golf and Country Club was founded by William Howard Taft's brother Henry Waldo Taft because he was refused membership at the Manila Golf Club but at Caloocan. Or that Elmer Stone, author of Insulares, was denied membership to the Manila Polo Club so the Pembroke management the Manila Polo Club so the Pembroke management the Manila Polo Club so the Pembroke management

Boycott degenerate TV shows

LETTERS

I AGREE NESTOR E. TORRES FRANK commentary on TV shows and personalities who flaunt degenerate behavior—drunkenness and flatulence pride. ("Showing no much skin on TV? Inconceivable!," 7/26/07).

Why not exercise their censor and censure these characters more so all the corruption they are active serving in our society? Libel laws? What about cop-a-feels, sex-crazed teen chat lines violated and unknowingly intercepted on the last big movie-making plot-in? There was a time when Evangelical or Christian groups would raise a hoot every time TV shows went too far. It was common practice then for these groups to call for a boycott of these programs and their sponsors. But now these scum are surprisingly still.

Perhaps they do it from the pulpit or in their own TV shows. Clearly this is not taking an effect on the viewing public, force it fit on the consciences and pockets of business people. Perhaps, the consumers of these purveyors of "sex and vuckry" are buried under their filthy riches. Lighten their pockets and their conscience might see the light. Accept a diet some people have no respect for what is right or moral. For them, only Mammon speaks to charity, so let's silence Mammon a bit so he's stuck dirt to others.

Glad to know there is still conscientious folk here who keeps reminding us of what should not be. But a solitary guardian against mass unenvironed, powerful practices in the networks will not suffice. Why not form a movement into civic groups against programs and sponsors? Or perhaps a website dedicated to such a worthwhile cause? In the way, if the Inquirer may already run one with interactivity to encourage people to promote public beliefs, why can't the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board have its eyes set to protect the people's moral health? Has all the concerned networks as such an ad? Or can always spot their viewers in the same way that they have our patience.)

The simple task of informing and convincing people to stop all this nonsense will go a long way toward preserving the morals of our society before they finally go down this short with all the dirt we are saving and burying. I know that Every's observations and comments have also grown be-gun of many silent Filipinos.

—JESUS GALAS
17, 87 Quadrilateral, Bancoro, Cavite

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number in e-mail submissions for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

In defense of SC re Eala's disbarment case

HOW COULD CONRADO DE QUIROS BE such a so-responsible journalist and lawyer citizen of the republic? He was once my boss in the editorial, and for his time as an erudite critic of the present administration.

I agree with Rommel Cruz in his letter entitled "De Quiros unjustifiably wrong on Judge Pimentel," (Inquirer, 8/6/07) that wow, De Quiros has the temerity to put in question the wisdom of our highest tribunal regarding the disbarment of PBA Commissioner Noli Eala. In his column "Wows and Yawns" (Inquirer, 8/5/07), the Quiros-named shale-wise the justices of the Supreme Court and many other lawyers are so guilty as Eala and therefore should likewise be disbarred.

I wish De Quiros were a lawyer so that he would understand the ethical standards and members of the noble profession he now derides. But sad, alas, we have to let it pass because he knows whereof he speaks, occupying the window of Supreme Court decisions. De Quiros himself admitted that he did not know what the Supreme Court's ruling in Eala's case exactly upheld ("wherever my gaze lay before his letter writing responding to calls, he quotes himself with the views of a case in its entirety.

De Quiros erred in saying that Eala's crime is a private one. It upsets me that a veteran journalist would write such nonsense.

Image is an invisible social investment, protected and preserved by the state, against one who violates it can be prosecuted in the name of the "People of the Philippines." And a violation of the sanctity of marriage was often exactly Eala's crime and His own wife as well as the husband of his mistress may be the private individual parties, but they were the victim there, witnesses for the people of the Philippines.

Let us hope that the Supreme Court in reopening the Eala case to those of Virgilio Garcillano and Lansing Hicks, Garcillano and Hicks) least may yet have exercised of the crimes they are accused of. They have yet to face adversarial proceedings. There is no final and conclusive judgment of the Supreme Court against them. Until then, Garcillano and Hicks shall enjoy the presumption of innocence.

—BRYAN BALLESTEROS,
edballesteros@hotmail.com

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Lim's kid gloves for abusive drivers

I AGREE WITH JESUS VI OF BINONDO, Manila that something should be done about illegally parked vehicles. (Inquirer, 7/16/07) Unfortunately, this is not in the "order of battle" of Manila City Hall under Mayor Alfredo Lim. He is treating undisciplined drivers with kid gloves. Lim has banned motorcycle from entering Manila and he has banned the fines and penalties for traffic violations.

Illegal parking is the main problem in one of the Manila Science High School (MSHS) on Taft Avenue, where vehicles that are used to both students are packed in area more possible as the sun rises. At one time, parked vehicles occupied nearly one-half of the north-bound lane of Taft Avenue near the corner of Padre Burgos.

Illegal parking is not the only problem. Pedestrian obstruction also is, apparently condoned by City Hall and other traffic enforcement agencies. Jeepneys and buses pick up and unload passengers right on pedestrian lanes.

And what about the flower shops occupying not only the entire line along Leon Guinto and Lacson Avenue in Sampaloc but also the sidewalks and sections of Leon Guinto and Lacson, which Manuel E. Buhain, in addition to his barangay officials, has turned into parking areas?

If Lim is really serious about applying the law to all to be seen he will do, he should also clean up Manila's streets and sidewalks of obstructions.

—NERI VELEZ,
manilaregister@yahoo.com

RP's lack of a culture of research and science

I AGREE WITH PROF. FLOR LACANILAO (Inquirer, 7/29/07) regarding his observations about the Philippines' poor record in science and technology. There is indeed hesitance among Filipino scholars, both in the social and natural sciences, to publish in internationally reviewed journals. A possible reason for this is the acute lack of resources for research and publication in all local universities.

The government's lack of support for science and technology is well documented although there have been significant improvements lately. The Balik Scientist Program, long championed by Lanzona (emeritus), hoping therefore to enrich science-based industries both in the Philippines. The proposed 2008 budget for the Department of Science and Technology has been significantly increased.

However, despite these positive signs, a more basic problem lies unexamined—the lack of academic research. As Inquirer columnist Randy Alcantara David wrote in his column "We're a nation, dude, are we forever consigned to backwardness and pre-modernism, bound to remain slaves of subjugation and thirty-eight inches because we have failed to develop a scientific mindset that can explain the world and produce engineers?"

The theme of this year's meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)—"A Prosperous Philippines Anchored on Science: Building a Culture of Science"—is additive to second and reinforce the basis for building a culture of science. Such a culture will flow of all sectors to accept arguments and theories based on scientific knowledge. Only if the world is perceived in certain ways (e.g., unambiguous evidence, impulsive and predictable, falsifiability, disenchantment, a person-centered picture) is it likely to result in a science-like mentality.

While evidence is only one element that shapes this perception, its salience is undeniable. In many Filipinos, including scientists, private beliefs and public knowledge are inextricably intertwined. Science is seen as restricted by emotional factors, thereby preventing its universal assimilation. A high level of educated competence rather than the common practice of method privileges through membership in networks or systems of patronage is necessary for science and technology groups.

A paradox presents itself—there are many Filipino scientists despite the absence of a culture of science. This indicates that science, however important, is only one factor for science and technology. However, without a culture of science, the Philippines will lag behind in many ambitious neighbors in the global search for technological progress and scientific development.

—KARL PEREIRA,
Asian Center
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

Across the NATION

P3M in Cebu pork barrel thrown away

A WOMAN with her children and nieces fall in line to avail themselves of medical services in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, a right community many public clinics and hospitals that suffer from lack of funds. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

By Sharon Nazarrio
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT found that the P3 million medical aid fund from the pork barrel of Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco at the government-run Don Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (DVSMMC) has been misused.

The COA auditor assigned at the hospital requested that Cuenco's Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), or pork barrel, worth P3,296,065.20, went instead to ghost purchases of medicines.

Another COA report also stated that another P5,156,760.00 in hospital funds were used to purchase assorted medicines without bidding and from a single source, the Pharmaceutica Filipina de Ventura.

The irregularities were just among several questionable transactions at the hospital investigated by the COA.

The hospital's top management is now under investigation on orders of Health Secretary Francisco Duque after COA reported that around P300 million was lost to graft because of several transactions that did not undergo public bidding and due to unnecessary purchases of hospital equipment.

Cuenco yesterday confirmed the COA finding, saying it was him who asked COA to conduct an audit after he learned of the alleged irregular use of his PDAF.

Cuenco revealed that a COA official in fact called him last week to inform him about the investigation so he can also help be alerted before the matter is endorsed to the Ombudsman.

The COA report said that the pork barrel fund was meant to buy antirabies vaccines from the Bell Pharmacy Branch who came from the city's south district, which is represented by Cuenco, could avail themselves of the medicines by presenting the prescription and referral slips issued by the attending doctors of DVSMMC.

However, the pharmacy claimed payment from the hospital, using forged prescription and referral slips given to non-existent patients, the report said.

The signatories of the doctors were forged on around 166 fake patients' slips, while 1,000 vaccine vials were given per-sonal use instead of antirabies vaccines totaling P2,986,037.20.

Cuenco blamed one of his former staffs for what he described as a sabotage of his medical program.

He said the staff member, identified as James Yeneres, who was assigned to the hospital to handle the needs of the patients, was fired in 2005 after an-other of his staff members reported to him about the irregularity.

ROUNDUP

Land feud seen in slay try

BACOLOD CITY—A Iloy Kalingo police official said the attempted assassination of former Kabankalan Mayor Marcelo de la Cruz on Wednesday was a revenge for the official's order to demolish the houses of settlers in Barangay Hilamgan in the town in June.

De la Cruz and his son, incumbent Kabankalan Vice Mayor Mark de la Cruz, survived when their slo-motion convoy was ambushed by at least 20 men in Barangay Linao-West on Wednesday afternoon.

One of the gunmen was killed while at least 110 policemen and security aides of the De la Cruzes were hurt.

"[The attack was] an offshoot of the Hilamgan case," Senior Supt. Benjamin Diaz, police director of Kalinga, said in a telephone interview on Thursday.

The elder De la Cruz, however, said he did not want to speculate if the attack was related to the land dispute.

Doutrer Calisa and Elbano Vitaja, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Citizenship case junked

BACOLOD CITY—The Commission on Elections Second Division has dismissed for lack of merit the petition for disqualification filed against Sandoval Mayor Glenn Sommerset over his citizenship.

The Comelec Second Division, in a resolution penned by Presiding Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. and commissioners Rene Sarmiento and Nicodemo Ferrer, ruled that Sommerset, who was an American citizen, was qualified to seek public office because he had reacquired his Filipino citizenship before he ran in the May elections.

Carla Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Negros wants donation back

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon wants to get back the Pagbilao Sports Complex from that the provincial government donated to the Department of Education (DepEd).

In a complaint filed against the DepEd, the provincial government asked the Regional Trial Court (RTC) to revoke the donation of the sports complex because DepEd had failed to maintain the sports complex, a violation of the deed of donation.

The complex was donated in 1998.

The deed of donation required the recipient to maintain the complex in support of the provincial government's sports development program.

Carla Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

GMA boosts son's projects

LUBANAN, Camarines Sur—The programs of now Rep. Dato Arroyo got a big boost recently when President Macapagal-Arroyo met with Church lay leaders here and pledged support for programs of the Lubmanen Prelature.

In social action director revealed the meeting on Wednesday.

Fr. Gaspard Pingol, executive director of the social action center of the Prelature of Lubanan Development Foundation Inc. (PLDF), said leaders of the prelature were not expecting the meeting as they rushed preparations to host the President.

Undersecretary Fatima A. S. Valles, of Malacañang's religious affairs, was the one who arranged the meeting, according to Pingol.

"We were deeply honored that for the first time in this town the President of the Philippines requested to have a special meeting with us priests," said the priest.

Mr. Arroyo, Pingol said, asked Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. during the meeting to review infrastructures projects that in line with those of the PLDF.

Jean Escander Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

More youth voters seen

OLD CABALAN CITY—The Commission on Elections in Eastern Visayas is expecting a 1 percent increase in the number of young voters for the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections on October.

Lowell Adolfo Badac, Comelec regional director for Eastern Visayas, said based on the results of the regular list-up last July 15-22, there was already a 5-percent increase in the number of voters for the Oct. 29 SK elections, compared to the 2002 SK elections.

He said the Comelec was still waiting for reports from some municipalities on the results of the special weekend registrations held on July 28-29 and on Aug. 4-5.

The registration's total of 1,581 teenagers. **Rhonda Cabrera, Inquirer Visayas**

NPAs gun down villager

LEGANA CITY—Two suspected New People's Army gunmen shot dead a villager in Barangay Lubacan Malabog in Sariaya, Quezon Tuesday pending a report Thursday.

The report identified the victim as Ariel Magbitang, PO1 Rommel Elardo, case investigator, said that at around 12:30 p.m., the armed men arrived in the village aboard a red motorcycle.

When the suspects spotted the victim, one of them came near to Magbitang and shot him in the nape point-blank. The report said that after the shooting, the suspects introduced themselves as NPA rebels and immediately escaped aboard the motorcycle.

The victim was rushed to the Sariaya Hospital in Sariaya where he died. **Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon**

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Caller ID Announce	●	●
Basic Cordless Handset		
Color	Black Metallic Body	Champagne Body
Backlit Handset Keypad	●	●
Backlit Display	● (Display Backlight Only)	● (Display Backlight Only)
Intercom Between Handsets	●	●
Intercom Between Handset and Base Unit	●	●
Conference Call	● (Up to 3 Parties)	● (Up to 3 Parties)
Phone Book Transfer between Handsets	●	●
Talking Caller ID	●	●
Base Unit		
Color	Black Metallic Body	Champagne Body
Direct Key Access for 3 Numbers	Yes	Yes
Call Block	●	●
Call Waiting Caller ID	●	●
Speed Dial	10 Numbers	10 Numbers
Answering System		
Digital Answering System	● (Up to 14 Minutes)	● (Up to 14 Minutes)
Remote Access	●	●
Dimensions	Base Unit: 6-1/8" (W) x 6-1/8" (D) x 7-1/8" (H)	Base Unit: 6-1/8" (W) x 6-1/8" (D) x 7-1/8" (H)
	Handset: 1-3/4" (W) x 5-3/8" (D) x 7-1/8" (H)	Handset: 1-3/4" (W) x 5-3/8" (D) x 7-1/8" (H)
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KOJM off hook as result of 'win-win' plan

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—The Japanese firm that was building the Dinalo-Pulupandan portion of the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) was extraordinary asked to move its deadline, but a "win-win" solution on delays let it off the hook on millions of pesos of penalties.

Edgardo Sonnaxcan, chief of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Council (SCADC), said "SCOJM was equally responsible for delays."

The KOJM, he said, did not reach the 15-percent limit in slippage (delay in work schedule) rate. In the contract, that rate allows the BCDA to unilaterally cancel the contract and claim P1.5 million per day of delay.

But extending the KOJM's deadline to finish its work, he said, was a "win-win solution."

Pamintuan said the government did not incur losses when President Macapagal-Arroyo approved a recommendation to give a four-month deadline extension to KOJM.

In a statement sent from the United States, Pamintuan called it "baseless extrapolation" the claims of an Inquirer source that the government virtually gave away P600 million when the Bases Conversion Development Authority did not impose penalties on the KOJM Obijima Corp., Obayashi Corp., JFE Engineering Corp. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. Joint Venture.

The BCDA gave the KOJM, which is building the 59-km Dinalo-Pulupandan portion of the P21-billion SCTEx, extra four months to finish the project.

The surgery, refer to problems in Subic-Clark development projects, also estimated that government was going to lose around P200 million in revenue losses from the delayed opening of the toll way.

Based on its contract, KOJM was supposed to complete the 59-km portion (Sta-to-other) With the deadline extension, it needed to finish its actual work remaining of 28 percent until March next year.

The Metropolitan Expressway (MTPE Joint Venture (MTJV), on the other hand, should complete by the end of this month the 44-km Pampanga-Dalac of the highway.

"Whoever made the extrapolation did not bother to the fact that even if the highway is completed as originally scheduled, it could not be opened immediately because of work premises as the building and wrecking of the toll operator among other things," said Pamintuan, who is an official business in the OJL.

The building for operations and maintenance has failed twice, and BCDA is starting a third building anytime.

Pamintuan said he recommended the extension because there were "lapses on the part of government," referring to "bidding to traffic-of-way problems, unavoidably many permits and finalize the project design."

Pamintuan stopped into the scene the debris last May and took the issue to the level of the Cabinet in his capacity as chair of the Investment Policy Board.

The KOJM has not issued any official statement regarding the allegations.

LAST FRONTIER: Where to this from Mt. Pinatubo/Aquino, as seen from Bronzino's Point in Palauig, is the opposition from Bronzino's Point officials, prompting engineers of other investments raising three engineering around this area.

DENR closes fruit processing plant in S. Cotabato

KORONADAL CITY—The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB) has issued an order for a multinational firm to cease operations in a South Cotabato town following findings that its wastewater leaked toxic chemicals.

The EMB ordered the Dole-Philippines to stop the operations of its factory in Sandilla, South Cotabato.

The factory treated some cannon Moncher after MDN of Dutch Found (news of toxic chemicals in the factory's wastewater, according to Teagles Sandel, EMB Central Mindanao director.

Sandel said an owner of a farm land near the factory has filed a complaint earlier after his farm suffered contamination as a result of leakage from the factory's wastewater.

Sandel said although the contamination is not yet at an alarming level, it could pollute the drinking water in Sandilla and Lagunde Manda in Maguindanao if was not addressed.

"The case was handled by our regional office. Anyhow, there will be a decision regarding Dole's case," he said.

Some 700 workers of the factory who stopped work as a result of the order staged a picket outside the EMB office here on Wednesday.

The bypass need to get the side of Dole Phils. but a staffer in Sandilla said their manager, George Bun, was not available to answer questions from the media.

In Digos City in Davao del Sur, Gov Douglas Cagas threatened to forbid-to-Imitate plantations in the village of Kapatagan if the owners of the plantations failed to secure Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC).

Cagas had told banana companies ABC Farms, Dizon Farms and Sebastian Farms to get the needed ECCs or "I, myself, will forbidden your banana."

The village of Kapatagan is a known tourist destination in the province from where visitors can view Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak.

Another Mexican-owned Dole plantation, Inquirer Mindanao

Whatever . . . It's life in jail for 'shabu' mayor

From page A1

precipe search warrant (Mission Infiltrate) Mayor-to-be Jaime Jacinto.

Another problem, though, was that Pacquiao wants this runner-mate, Jhet Jimenez-Tambio, to be on the flight with him. But Bonnachito was on standby in the economy section.

Pacquiao reportedly called up PAL personnel Jaime Jacinto.

It was a matter that reportedly irked not a few people in the airport because Pacquiao's call for the airline bigwig to upgrade his "backup" to the powers-that-be at PAL, the resources said.

Superstitious

"It's got some of the people thinking that maybe Pacquiao was superstitious, wanting his runner mate to travel with him," the sources said.

Eliminating Bonnachito managed to get a seat, albeit the "Pinkies" forked the boxer's business associates and could create unfavorable interfacing with him in first class, gave up his seat.

But here is the funniest: It was one of Pacquiao's friends who phoned him and broke the bond himself. "The news that I received was that Jet (Pacquiao) wanted his runner to be with him.

PAL did not give Pacquiao special treatment, Jacinto said. He explained that the airline simply allowed Jacinto to swap his seat since he was a booked passenger on the flight and a business class ticket was purchased for the member, an upgrade from his economy ticket.

Asked if in ordinary passenger could do the same bull as boss Jacinto talked, Jacinto said that the airline would allow it as long as the passengers like Jacinto was already booked, and ticket would be purchased.

No last-minute switching

But the business sources insisted that an airline allows a "switching" of passengers, especially at the last minute.

Told that Pacquiao seemed to have been involved in some incidents with PAL, Jacinto said he did recall one incident but it was a "minor one."

Pacquiao had once sneered the ire of airport and airline employees when he almost delayed a flight to Hong Kong after arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport late and appeared not to be rushing to catch the flight.

From page A1

He added: "The court has established beyond reasonable doubt the guilt of the accused, who must suffer the consequences of being involved in narcotics spreading the plague of dangerous drugs devastating the nation.

"They are the real culprits, who for evil gain, are sapping the strength and morality of the nation, especially the vulnerable youth, with the very life poison they are spreading."

Weeping

The judge acquitted the two other accused—Willie Yee Yong, a Chinese national, and Raul Despalin, Mitra's aide—and ordered their immediate release. She said the prosecution had failed to prove their guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

After listening to a court interpreter translate the verdict into Fookien, for his benefit, a weeping Yong covered his face and slumped to the ground.

Mitra, who wore a long-sleeved yellow shirt in stark contrast to his companions' plain orange and yellow T-shirts, was not eyed but otherwise expressive.

After he and Despalin were likewise straight-faced as members of the media took their pictures. They refused to answer questions.

Only Mitra had no lawyer present during the proceedings. He told Judoa that his counsel, Abraham Espejo, had stopped coming him for quite some time, prompting the judge to appoint a public attorney to represent him.

The bust

In her decision, Judoa recounted how members of the Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigation acted on a tip about a shipment of a huge quantity of illegal drugs somewhere in Bicol, Quezon.

The team set up a checkpoint on the national highway in Bicol, and was order to intercept a government ambulance carrying sacks of suspected shabu on July 13, 2005.

After arresting the drivers and his companions, later identified as Merlito Yong and Despalin, the lawmen were all on a fanon van that, according to Merlito, was being driven by then Mayor Mitra.

The lawmen overtook the van after an hourlong chase and arrested Merlito. The van yielded seven sacks of shabu weighing, according to Judoa.

Despalin testified in court that he had been with Mitra in the van. He said that after they had safely passed through the checkpoint, Mitra told him to get off and warn the ambulance driver not to go back.

"When the boy accused took the stand, they virtually admitted the essence of the prosecution on the fact of their arrest and the confiscation of the shabu, except that they claimed that the ambulance was stopped after it passed through the checkpoint," Judoa said.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

THE CHARGES ABOUT INTERCEPTED BY Senator-to-Rest Quezon on July 13, 2005, and Mitra's contract had a ton of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) worth P1 billion was handing with a Mitra's aid handing license plates marked with the word "Mayor."

And, indeed, Mayor Victoria Mitra of Perez Quezon was during the car. The ambulance was the property of his town.

Mitra was arrested by a team composed of members of the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group and the National Bureau of Investigation.

He acted along with the searches personnel aide Raul Despalin, his driver Jaime Medina, who was driving the ambulance, and Chinese national Willie Yong, who was riding with Mitra.

Then Quezon Provincial Prosecutor Leonardo Mina Jr. recommended that the case be dismissed because of the lack of probable cause.

The state prosecutor thinking fulfilling charges against the four were based on a criminal complaint filed by the PNP.

The cases against Mitra et al. were assigned to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Despite suffering from long-term hypertension, Mitra was detained at the Quezon City Jail.

In April 2006 a Catholic priest, Rolando "Rolly" Panlaqui, complained that he and his staff were being harassed by Mitra's officials to help prepare the supposed campaign documents of Quezon officials and a suspected drug lord in the province.

The mayor also called at the then secretary for presidential affairs Ignacio Bunye to "help" him stop the planned investigation by a report on the purported outstanding of 200 kilos of shabu on a beach at Barangay Bonliw in Barangay Quezon, in August 2004.

There was said to be cover-up behind-the-scenes at least three "close relationships."

Ex-Garbo, now Vice President, had said the drug did not go through on the air-planed because the crew had gathered only "hearsay" from the interviews. — Inquirer Research

"It would not matter whether the ambulance was stopped at the checkpoint or after passing it as long as that the accused were caught in flagrante committing an offense, i.e., using a government vehicle for unofficial purposes," she said.

Tiles, spare parts

Mitra testified that he had agreed to transport the sacks thinking these contained tiles and electrical spare parts. He said he was getting a favor from Senator Bong Revilla, who had bought his Fabrigas hotel for P2 million a month earlier.

Judoa, however, said Mitra's explanations were far from credible and convincing. She said Mitra had failed to show the court any documentary evidence, such as a receipt for the supposed P2-million transaction.

"Secondly," she said, "if it were true that Bong Revilla was the owner of the items seized by the police, the court could not understand why Revilla did not immediately inform the police about it."

Judoa also pointed out that Mitra did not cooperate with the police in apprehending the suspected several owners of the sacks, which could have all resulted from in the process.

"The foregoing circumstances surely show that [Mitra] had knowledge of the true nature of the cargo in both his drivers van and the ambulance driven by... Medina," she said.

Conspiracy

The judge said Medina was guilty of conspiracy with Mitra because he had told the latter's counsel during the arraignment that he and Yong were with the mayor, "apparently to persuade the operatives to allow them to pass."

"Conspiracy may be inferred from the conduct of the accused, before, during and after the commission of the crime, which, if all taken together, would reasonably be aiming to show a community of criminal design," she said.

Despalin and Yong, as employees of Boss Tan's, who rendered that the land cash received a ruling on the ambulance after supposing the mayor's hiding host, were both acquitted in the absence of evidence to show how they had participated in the crime.

"In a long line of cases, the Supreme Court has held that mere presence is not enough to approve, but without active participation, is not enough for purposes of conviction," Judoa said.

Under Section 21 of the Dangerous Drugs Act (Republic Act No. 6425), the delivery or distribution of regulated drugs without proper authority carries a penalty of confinement perpetual or death and a fine ranging from P500,000 to P10 million, the judge said.

She said that since the death penalty had been abolished, it could no longer be imposed "even if aggravating circumstances were attendant in the commission of the offense."

20 soldiers killed in Sulu; military gives 3 different versions

From page A1

the dead but admit they were ambushed by armed men," Suiza told the Inquirer.

The ambush occurred at around 7:45 a.m.

In Manila, the military gave two different versions in updates.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said that members of the Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion were on board a truck on a resupply mission to Jolo when they were ambushed by more than 100 Abu Sayyaf bandits believed to belong to the group of Abu Sayyaf leader Radullan Sahiron.

The troops had just come from their headquarters in Maimbung town and were on their way to the Joint Task Force-Comet headquarters in Jolo when they were fired upon at Tanumpay Gaysan, according to Suiza.

Armed Forces information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro gave another version.

"The third (6) elements who were ambushed were on the way to Jolo proper to bring a coffin for three comrades who had died in an encounter (Wednesday)," was Bacarro's explanation for the explosives by the soldiers.

As a result of the ambush, Bacarro said, the AFP had "retrieved its (rebel) security but main supply lines, and offensives against those attackers will continue."

The military also lost a radio unit and an M-16 rifle during the attack.

On Wednesday, soldiers of the 32nd IB killed four members of the Abu Sayyaf during a fire fight in Barangay Lanao Gracia in Patikul town.

One soldier was also killed while five others were wounded in the clash that reportedly involved gunmen under Sahiron (alias Radzmidar Parik, also Jumdail Jailan (Doctor Abu) and Jakadi Asnud, according to Maj. Gen. Benjamin Rabael, Task Force Comet chief.

Sahiron is on the US list of wanted terrorists and is considered one of the military's high value targets in its fight against terrorism in the southern Philippines.

On Tuesday, five Marines were wounded during a 15-minute firefight with the Abu Sayyaf in Indanan town.

Suiza said the series of encounters in Sulu was the result of the months-long implementation of Oplan Ultimatum 2, which aims to flush out Abu Sayyaf bandits and capture its main Islamic militant leaders.

Suspected Indonesian bombers Dulmatin and Omar Patek had reportedly been sighted in the company of the bandits in Sulu on several occasions.

Attackers pursued

Yesterday's ambush occurred as the military ordered a renewed offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi.

The military has blamed the group for the beheading of the 10 Marines in Basilan on July 16.

"This is very unfortunate but we are now pursuing their attackers," Torres said in a phone interview.

"No matter how we sit down and plan, things happen once in a while," Torres said.

Bacarro said the attackers comprised not only Abu Sayyaf bandits but also members of the Moro National Liberation Front.

He said this was the same group the military encountered the other day in Maimbung, Sulu.

Torres said that it was possible that the ambush was in retaliation for Wednesday's clash with the military.

Clearing chain of islands

He said among the information being validated by the military was that high-caliber targets were killed in the Wednesday encounter.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said the other day that the new military offensive in Sulu against the Abu Sayyaf was part of Oplan Ultimatum 2.

"We now have the operations under Joint Task Force Thunder to continue with joint Task Force Comet that has the purpose of clearing all (specific) chain of islands from Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi of the Abu Sayyaf," Esperon told reporters.

He said the offensive against the bandits would "go on ... until we are assured that the Abu Sayyaf has been substantially defeated." With a dispatch report

'I did not behead anyone, I just fired my gun, I want to be a witness'

From page A1

Jamiri, a brother of former Tubaran Mayor Hajaron Jamiri, said he wanted to be a state witness against the perpetrators of the Basilan carnage.

But Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said if Jamiri was on the arrest warrant, he could not become a state witness.

Jamiri was listed 12th among 127 suspects on the warrant issued by a Basilan court.

Man on motorcycles

Before Jamiri appeared on the highway, a motorcycle carrying one of his nephews drove up apparently to reconnoiter the area and then sped away.

Shortly after, another motorcycle driven by another nephew appeared, this time carrying Jamiri who was riding in tandem.

Sometime before Jamiri appeared, a convoy of military trucks and armored personnel carriers passed through the area.

Jamiri said he took part in the ambush staged by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) but not in the beheading of the Marines.

Lawyer will decide calling

Asked for details of what happened that day, Jamiri said his lawyer would do the talking.

All he would say was that after the Basilan ambush, he stayed out of sight but remained in the vicinity.

Jamiri was among the two Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar claimed took part in beheading the Marines.

Jamiri denied the allegation, saying Akbar had made a mistake.

A military asset

Musahad said he was Jamiri is one of his news coverages and that at some point, Jamiri told him he was an "asset" of the Army's 103rd Brigade.

Before yesterday's surrender, Jamiri had called Musahad a few times, using three cell phones, first to ask what would happen if he surrendered and, finally, to ask for his help so he could turn himself in.

Jamiri had been staying at an Abu Sayyaf camp for some time because he was also wanted for the 1995 murder of an ex-mayor.

According to the account Jamiri gave Musahad, he had gone to an MILF camp in Barangay Umanos in 46 Banks to get some arms.

It was there, according to Jamiri, that he chanced upon a meeting of MILF leaders, who spoke about the plan of the Marines to enter the camp in search of kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi. The priest was later freed in Lanao del Norte.

The MILF forces were given instructions to attack if the Marines come in, Jamiri said.

Then the ambush occurred.

"Sabihan ko na siya (He told me), adding that, according to Jamiri, he pulled out after most when the MILF forces had fanned.

A group from the Abu Sayyaf then replaced them, according to Jamiri, who said he knew two of the "beheaders" to be Abu Sayyaf members.

Military checkpoints

After the ambush, Jamiri stayed in remote areas at night, bringing along with him a hammock and his backpack. By day, he would stay with relatives and blend in with them.

After Jamiri sought his help, Musahad said he contacted the military and the NBI.

Jamiri wore a yellow jacket over a T-shirt and denim pants and looked nervous when he showed up at the highway. He then got in a van with Musahad and the escorts.

On the way to the Lantawan jail for the handover to the NBI team, the group passed through military checkpoints, exchanging greetings with the soldiers.

Musahad said Jamiri held a small television camera, but the soldiers recognized him.

The MILF has admitted involvement in the July 18 attack but said Jamiri was not an MILF member and that he could be an Abu Sayyaf.

Jamiri was flown to Manila under heavy guard last night. He refused to answer questions from media.

He and Lourdes were with him as heavily armed government operatives escorted them from the aircraft to a waiting convoy at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2.

Arabic teacher

An Arabic teacher in Lantawan City in Basilan yesterday said he could not understand why he was identified by authorities as one of the suspects.

Ustadz Akram Usman Mangkahong, 60, said he was busy with Ifitar recommendations at two Islamic schools in Lantawan on July 18 while the Marines were hunting their attackers in 46 Banks town.

He said that he learned a week ago that he was among those tagged as having been behind the incident.

"I just could not believe it," he said in the vernacular. "Now I could not even go out my house because of fear."

Mangkahong said he was not even in Al-Ittaba during the ambush and that the last time he visited the place was about three years ago.

"I pray the old man who could hardly walk and has spent his life teaching Hadith (Prophet Muhammad's sayings) does not be being implicated in the beheadings," said Muhammad Nalling, Mahad Ustadz Al-Islamiyah on-demand president.

Governor Mayor Roderick Furigay also reached for Mangkahong's innocence.

"He is a respected old man here and we were surprised that he was among those wanted for the ambush," Furigay said.

Suspects escape

Some of the suspects involved in the July 10 incident had slipped out of Basilan, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said.

"Some had fled [to] Zamboanga and nearby provinces," PNP Director General Oscar Calderon told reporters. PNP reports from Jaime Alipala of Inquirer Mindanao, and Alexis Pope and Nestor Quinsaat in Manila

Don't get W.I.L.D., health department warns the public

By Hilbo Dizon

ONE CAN GET WILD WITH the onset of the rainy season and, if ill, the Department of Health reminds yesterday.

The acronym stands for watery loose stools, nausea, lightheadedness, abdominal cramps and fatigue.

"We want the public to have an easy recall of these symptoms and the same time for them to know what they should do to avoid them," said Dr. Eric Tayag, chief epidemiologist of the DOH.

Simultaneously, diarrhea is caused by daily drinking water, he said, Tayag advised households infected by flooding to boil their drinking water.

"Even if the water from the faucets appears to be clear, the water could have been contaminated by the flooding. It's safer to boil your water," Tayag said.

Influenza and other respiratory diseases are common during the rainy season, and the chances of getting them in crowded public places are high, he said.

Avoid crowds

Tayag said that in these times, it is best to avoid crowds.

"Someone could cough or sneeze without covering his mouth or nose, and you could catch the virus yourself," he said.

Tayag reminded those with the flu to stay in bed for at least three to five days to avoid infecting others.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease caused by the ratbone of animals, such as rats, and could affect both humans and animals.

Wear boots

Tayag said people should always wear boots before wading in floods to avoid getting the bacteria. Symptoms of the disease include fever, red-colored urine, jaundiced or yellowish skin and severe muscle pain.

"If you have these symptoms and you know you had waded in the flood, try to poke the muscles of your legs and if you scream in pain, most likely you're infected," Tayag said.

Tayag said that those who suspect they have leptospirosis should immediately go to a hospital or at least validation centers.

Just like with meningococcemia, antibiotics should be administered right away to one infected with leptospirosis or else the person would suffer from complications, he said.

Empty drums, unused tires

Tayag also advised homeowners to dispose of the water that had been kept in containers and drums that could have been possible breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Containers and unused tires should be rid of standing water, he said.

Dengue cases can be expected in communities with the life cycle of mosquitoes, he said. The dengue cases expected finds are the result of the conditions at least six months ago, he said.

So, avoid the WILD: mess and stay healthy in the rain.

Angat water level back at 180 m

From page A1

for residents of Metro Manila and farmers in Central Luzon.

Two typical storms—"Dodong" and "Enteng"—that struck Angat's water level back to 180.10 meters at 4 p.m. yesterday, up by more than 8 meters from 171.5 m in 6 mm. Wednesday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

"It doesn't make sense to continue the cutback at this point," MWSS Executive Director Ramon Alikpala said in a phone interview. "There's no more cutback unless the weather changes." However, he urged consumers to continue conserving water.

Normal allocation

At a level of 180 m, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) can go back to their normal allocation of water for domestic use and irrigation.

The MWSS had planned on further restricting the allocation of water from Angat Dam for 12 million domestic users in the metropolis and 28,000 farmers of Pampanga, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija to further stretch the available water.

"Our water bank is safe. Storms brought rainfall starting on Monday, the dam's elevation had been dipping following a two-month dry spell.

Biggest rise in 24 hours

The 6-meter rise, by far the biggest 24-hour increase this week, was attributed to the 243.5 mm rainfall in the watershed from 6 a.m. Wednesday to 6 a.m. Thursday.

"That's good news for metro Manila residents," Pagasa weather bureau chief Nathaniel Cruz said in an interview.

The MWSS earlier said, originally on the map, it's would have led to water interruptions in elevated areas in the western zone of Metro Manila, and significant reduction in water for irrigation for farmers in Central Luzon.

The MWSS had planned to reduce the allocation for domestic use from 41 cubic meters per second to 39 cu m/sec, and the allocation for irrigation from 23 cu m/sec to 12.5 cu m/sec.

Thanks to the rain

With the dam elevation climbing back to 180 m, the MWSS could easily produce 2,068 million liters/day (MLD), its normal daily production. It's the residents in the metropolis.

"At 180 m, all things considered, everything should be normal," Jesus Matchila, AVP for corporate affairs of the Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI), said in a phone interview.

MWSI, the water concessionaire which covers the western zone of the metropolis, stood to be directly affected by the planned cutback in the middle of the month.

At the same level, the NIA would be able to satisfy its 32,49 cu m/sec requested irrigation requirement for August, according to Leslie Dizon, supervising analyst of NIA.

"At 180 m, we will return to our original requirement," he said.

The MWSS assumed the rise in Angat water level not only to the rainfall, but to the necessary cutoff of the water supply for metropolis residents and General Luna, farmers.

Ipo Dam

The NIA and MWSS had requested the MWSS to cut their allocation from Angat Dam for irrigation and domestic use to zero because of the substantial rainfall in Ipo Dam, MWSS officials said.

The Ipo Dam, where raw water from Angat Dam is impounded before it flows into La Mesa Dam, overflowed Wednesday because of unthreshold amount of rain, officials said.

The cutoff took effect on par 14 a.m. Wednesday and would end today for the NIA.

Pagasa said that a new low pressure area spotted 880 km east of northern Luzon would further induce the southwest monsoon (Habagat) to bring more rain to the western part of the country.

Dodong, which came on the heels of

Classes remain suspended in North

MALACAÑANG ANNOUNCED LAST night that classes remained suspended for elementary and high school students in the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Benguet, Nueva Ecija, Zambales and Bataan. The order was sent to the Office of Civil Defense upon the instruction of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Thriving forests needed

By Beverly T. Nacorda

WHILE THE RECENT TYPHOONS may be replenishing Metro Manila's important water reserves, the recharging of water supply can only be done significantly if the country's water reservoirs, have well-thriving forests.

Otherwise, said the supporters of the Save the La Mesa Coalition, the water in on the rains will just continue on to Manila they to surface runoff and only a few will be retained by the reservoir. It was touched based supporting a reservoir, they said, results in less runoff and erosion and helps recharge the groundwater supply.

"Without the forest, the surface runoff is huge. Most of the rainwater will just flow. Dikaw is an asset, a lot will go to the aquifer (groundwater)," said Maki Mendoza, acting program director of Bantay Kalikasan, the environmental arm of the ABS-CBN Foundation, is part of the Save the La Mesa Coalition.

The coalition is campaigning against an MWSS employees' housing project at the La Mesa Dam watershed area, fearing it would pollute the reservoir.

Dodong, was forecast to exit last night. With maximum sustained winds of 55 kph, it crossed Taiwan and weakened into a tropical depression. However, Storm Ingrid Ito, 1 remained over the Bataan group of islands.

Enough irrigation water

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap yesterday visited Angat Dam. He was accompanied by National Irrigation Administration Administrator Nick Tegoson, Department of Agriculture Region 3 Executive Director Rodolfo Garcia, Angat Dam plant manager Rodolfo Cerezo and NIA Director for Region 3 Manuel Collado.

Yap said the increase in the dam's water level would mean that there would be enough water for the Angat-Maasin River Irrigation System, which services around 28,000 hectares of farmlands.

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DID YOU KNOW

In the first quarter of 2007, the Bureau of Internal Revenue's total tax revenue collection in Metro Manila reached P104.1 billion. This figure is 7.55 percent higher than the total collection in the first quarter of 2006.
Cyril L. Bonalaan, Inquirer Research

BLOODY DAY

5 killed in 9 hours in QC

By Jeannette I. Andrade

SIX MEN, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT OF A jeepney operators and drivers association, died yesterday from different causes in a span of nine hours in separate incidents in Quezon City.

One of the fatalities, Romulo Odal Sr., 50, president of the Project 4 Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association, was temporarily gunned down by two men wearing bonnets. He died of multiple gunshots in the head and body.

The Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said four of the killers in the ambush were unidentified. Three were killed in encounters with police, however, and the other could have been the victim of summary execution. Two of the unidentified victims were suspected members of motorcycle-riding robbers.

Shootout

Police reports showed the case figured in a shootout with members of the QCPD District Police Intelligence Operations Unit at around 1 a.m. yesterday in Old Balara. The two men were on a red Honda Prio motorcycle.

The dead unidentified men, suspected to be one of the passenger jeepney robbers, was described to be 20-25 years old, 5'2" tall, medium built with a "Magsaysay Pinoy" (problematic sounding) tattoo on the back.

He was killed while allegedly trying to escape with his accomplices. Two of the other suspects, Rodolfo Ancera, 23, and Ronel Cardenas, 22, were arrested.

The group allegedly held up a Fairview-bound passenger jeep traveling along Quezon Avenue in Barangay Tandang. The unidentified suspect was killed when the group encountered police at around 12:30 a.m. in Barangay Dioko Jimeno.

The victim believed to have been executed was 30-40 years old, also, with an "Ironed" tattoo on the right shoulder. He also was covered with packaging tape. The body was discovered at around 4 a.m. in Lot 46, Sitio Apollo with a bullet hole on the forehead and tape on a mask around the neck.

In another incident, motorcycle driver Melito Galimot was found dead in the cadaver of his vehicle at around 6 a.m. in Veterans' Village. He was believed to have died of natural causes.

Odal was having coffee with his son and a colleague at around 9 a.m. in front of a Project 6 eatery when two men alighted from a beige Toyota Revo and started shooting.

The killing could be the result of Odal's rough stance against illegal public utility vehicles in Project 6.

Security detail boosted in Ortigas parking lots

By Kristine L. Alave

PARKING LOT OPERATORS IN Pasig City's Ortigas Business District will hire more guards and improve security to reduce cases of carjacking in the area.

Eastern Police District (EPD) director Chief Supt. Lauro Vizcaya yesterday said operators agreed to cooperate with the police and boost security in the city's financial district to reduce crimes committed by members of "Bahay-kotse" gangs.

"Our goal is zero incident of carjacking. This is part of our project in anticipation of the Christmas season," Vizcaya said.

Police officials said lack of security in most pay parking lots in Ortigas Center made it easy for people to engage in criminal activities.

In a related development, the San Juan City police arrested three suspected members of the Bahay-kotse gang in a shootout operation on Wednesday.

San Juan City police chief Supt. Rodolfo Acosta identified the suspects as Chrysler Legaspi, 21; Dexter Laguna, 19; and Arthur Ramos, 28.

Returning informal settlers set back flood control project

By Jocelyn Arcilla

INFORMAL SETTLERS WHO HAVE BEEN given relocation sites have returned to Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela cities, hampering the smooth implementation of a North Metro flood control project.

Marcelito Bartolo, director of the project management office of the Department of Public Works and Highways Caloocan (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela) Flood Control Project, said the presence of the returnees caused the delay in the implementation of the Carissa Creek pumping station project in Malabon.

About 500 families who used to live along the creek have returned to the site, according to Bartolo.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. has requested the help of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to stop the squatting in the project components. Both banks of the creek had been cleared by the DPWH and the area turned over to the Malabon city government, in accordance with an agreement between the two offices in 1999.

Bartolo said the Carissa station, as well as the Bangkulasi Pumping Station in Navotas, is expected to be operational by next month. The two stations will serve low-lying areas measuring 358 hectares and 175 ha, respectively.

By December, the North Navotas Pumping Station will be completed to serve an area of 470 ha from Caloocanbocaled Road 6 up to Barangay Tangos Pinky. The Manuyo Pumping Station, covering Pradera to Bukid Sanayo up to the Circumferential Road 5 in Caloocan, is set for completion in March 2008.

Metro officials appeal to riverside communities: Don't clog waterways

By Jaime W. Bartolo, Rotman L. Abon and Jocelyn C. Arcilla

TALIBA CITY MAYOR PERFECTO Tiliga ordered the demolition of structures blocking the flow of rainwater along a main inside creek.

Tiliga issued the order after floods caused by Wednesday's heavy rain submerged part of Barangay Lower Bicutan.

The "Ganggo" creek along H. L. Quezon Street overflowed and caused waist-high floods Wednesday in Purok 1 to 14 in Barangay Lower Bicutan, M. L. Damian Sr. had to be closed to traffic for most of the flood.

"These illegal edifice should be evicted from the creek's banks since they are the main cause of the water blockage and the flooding," Tiliga said.

The Regional Tactical Operations Center said some 13 families were evacuated from Purok 1 and 2, to nearby schools because of the floods caused by typhoon Ondoy.

Councilor Jaime Lubenjos of the committee on infrastructure and Wednesday's floods were the worst in Barangay Lower Bicutan in a decade.

"Concurrent to motorcade used by the Philippine Good Guided to build their barracks also contributed to the water blockage," he said.

In other areas of southern Metro Manila, Pedrosdo's "floods that canceled traffic on main roads subsided Thursday down.

Some low-lying portions of the Alabang-Zapote road in Las Piñas City, such as the Soutco Homes Subdivision, Magnayon Village and Tenza in Barangay Pamplona Uno, were flooded.

Mayor Imelda Aguilar appealed to residents to stop of the de-clogging of the city's creeks by not throwing garbage into the waterways and drainage systems.

At the D.L.R. Subdivision (formerly Sucat Road) in Parañaque City, thigh-high waters prevented motorists and public utility vehicles from passing through.

Stefano Lizondato, spokesperson of city Mayor Florencio Bautista, said dozens of public utility vehicles dropped passengers off before reaching their destinations.

Bautista suspended classes on all levels on second 13 a.m. yesterday as a new typhoon, "Ondoy," threatened the country.

In Pasay City, portions of Edt Avenue were flooded during the heavy rains but Barangay Action Committee Bilis Tabalon said only 8 Mayor St. in Malibay remained flooded.

Hundreds of residents along the banks of the Ilog and Marikina Rivers were also evacuated. Police today might after the waters rose to overflow.

Marikina City officials said about 400 people or 72 families living near the Marikina River in Malanday and Nangka fled their homes at around 8 p.m. Wednesday after the water level at the Marikina River exceeded the threshold of 15 meters.

The evacuees stayed at the Malanday and Nangka Elementary Schools and returned to their homes early Thursday morning.

In San Jose City, eight families in Barangay Bahay Rato along the San Juan River were brought to nearby San Juan Elementary School. The evacuees returned to their homes at about 6 a.m.

Some 200 families from Barangay Bandila San Mateo, Sitio1, fled their homes on Wednesday morning to escape the overflowing waters. The barangay is near the Marikina, Nangka, and Pasig Rivers.

The evacuees spent the night in the Dona Teping Elementary School. Barangay Chapel, and under the Bancoan Bridge.

In Valenzuela City, some 30 families were evacuated after their barangays were submerged in water.

The local social welfare office said the families relocated to their homes yesterday morning after the floodwaters subsided.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NORIEL RODRIGUEZ

JULIETA BALBALOSA

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Lito Lorenzo B. Suico

Musharraf considers emergency rule

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN'S BESIEGED PRESident Pervez Musharraf was holding a meeting of aides and political allies on Thursday to consider declaring emergency rule.

The cloistered talks with senior officials and political allies of Musharraf were expected to take a step that would probably delay elections due by the turn of the year and would result in restrictions on rights of assembly and place curbs on the media.

The government would justify emergency rule by citing mounting terrorist attacks and a spate of suicide bombings—by Islamist militants allied to the Taliban and al-Qaeda over the past month.

General Musharraf, a staunch US ally, is going through his toughest period since coming to power in a 1999 coup.

Analysts and opposition leaders fear he might resort to an emergency because of considerable difficulties he faces getting endorsed by the ruling assemblies while still keeping chief of army staff and to stave off parliamentary elections due by the turn of the year.

"Imposition of an emergency would not lead to stability and, therefore, I hope that such a big step would not be taken," former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, the self-exiled leader of the largest opposition party, told Geo News overnight.

Nawaz Sharif, a deposed premier and Musharraf's other political enemy, said Musharraf would risk his political future if he chose emergency rule.

"If (also) Musharraf makes a U-turn in there is no consequential political response, the die is cast for more conflict that could lead to Musharraf going home," Sharif said.

Bhutto said Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, president of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League, a party with need to lose if elections go ahead, had advocated declaring an emergency for a year or so.

Hussain was one of political allies Musharraf called for a meeting at his army camp office in Rawalpindi, the garrison twins now door to Islamabad, on Thursday morning.

While one member of the inner circle of the Pakistani leadership said that an emergency would almost certainly be imposed, another said Musharraf and his advisers wanted to take stock of the situation before making action.

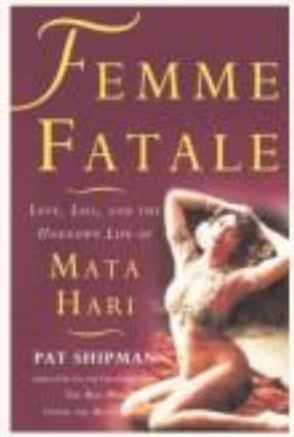
"All options are open to the government," Deputy Information Minister Tariq Azim Khan said.

Khan said the measures would be warranted by the deteriorating security situation in tribal areas and North West Frontier Province and suggestions by US politicians that America should be prepared to strike inside Pakistan territory if it possessed actionable intelligence on al-Qaeda or Taliban targets.

The United States has put Musharraf under pressure to act against al-Qaeda army or rebel regions on the Afghan border.

Western countries with troops in Afghanistan are sensitive to any instability in nuclear-armed Pakistan, vital to help in assist in fighting the Taliban insurgency and in counterterrorism operations against al-Qaeda. Reuters

MUSHARRAF: Tough times



MASTER SPY REVISITED
The cover of "Femme Fatale: Love, Lies and the Unknown Life of Mata Hari" is centered bottom. Pamela Geale Mata Hari was beautiful, a conspicuous liar, and without morals—but she wasn't a spy and suffered from syphilis contracted from her husband and not because of her promiscuity, says new biography

Georgia seeks UN probe of Russian missile raid

MOSCOW—THE REPUBLIC OF Georgia, protested what it called a devastating barrage of rockets on Wednesday that killed a Russian engineer had entered deep into its airspace and fired an anti-ground missile.

It said it was seeking a special session of the UN Security Council to address the incident.

No one was injured by the missile, which struck on Monday evening near Tskhinvali, a village about 30 miles from Tbilisi, the Georgian capital. The missile broke apart in impact, but did not explode. The Georgian military later determined the missile's payload was an Army bomb.

Russia has denied any role, and suggested that Georgia, a former Soviet republic now independent, attacked itself. It has also said it wants a comprehensive investigation of the incident.

But with Georgia intensifying its evidence and its foreign minister, Gela Bezhuashvili, rallying international support, the matter seemed to pose problems for Russian diplomacy in the turbulent Caucasus.

Ukraine and Latvia, both NATO republics, condemned the incident in an act of aggression against Georgia, and Britain called for an investigation.

Bezhuashvili said he hoped to set up an international panel. "We have a body of evidence," he said by telephone. "There is a common misunderstanding of the seriousness of the situation, and we are initiating a process of calling for a special session of the UN Security Council."

The missile was fired by an aircraft that flew near a main highway outside Tbilisi, an area with radar coverage.

Georgia has long accused Russia of conducting military flights across the border. The Kremlin, which continues to wage a counter-insurgency campaign against Chechen separatists and Islamic militants in the north Caucasus, backs secular opponents in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the two breakaway regions over the border to Georgia. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

US bombs Shiite gang

BAGHDAD—US jets and helicopters bombed Baghdad's largest Shiite slum on Wednesday in a deadly strike targeting Iranian-backed militia, as thousands of civilians thronged the streets of the Iraqi capital. The American military reported that 28 "bin Laden" were killed in the one night strike on Sadr City, but families complained that their relatives and children were among the dead, and angry mourners gathered to bury simple wooden caskets. Helicopters and warplanes were called in after Iraqi and US ground troops wrestled 12 members of a cell that US commanders believe smuggled in weapons and explosives from Iran, and sent militants to Iran for training. "The assault force and the overhead aerial support obtained credible and a large group of armed men on foot attempt to join assault on the ground forces. "The military said in a statement. "Responding appropriately to the threat of the organized terrorist force, forces in support was called and engaged the terrorist vehicle and organized terrorist force. Killing an estimated 30 bin Laden." Added. AFP

Japan worries about rising number of shootings

TOKYO—The number of people killed in shootings in Japan jumped to the first half of this year, including the death of a mayor who was gunned down by a gangster and several other high-profile cases, police said Thursday. While shootings are still relatively rare in Japan, authorities say the recent rise in crimes involving guns in a stabbing crime is a nation that has long taken pride in its reputation for crime-free streets. The National Police Agency said eight people were killed in shootings in the January-June period, up from two in the same period last year. AP

Indonesia quake feared causing volcanic activity

JAKARTA—A powerful 7.5-magnitude earthquake that struck Indonesia's main island of Java early Thursday could trigger activity at some of the country's many volcanoes, experts said. The undersea quake, centered about 110 km west of the capital Jakarta, occurred just after 'earthright,' rattling buildings and sending panicked residents onto the streets. The quake struck at a depth of about 200 km, too deep to cause much damage, geologists said. AFP

Mine rescue slows to a crawl in Utah

HUNTINGTON, Utah—Efforts to reach six trapped coal miners certainly a crawl on Tuesday as coal-based rescuers actively forced real rescue teams, and drilling equipment began slowly churning through thousands of feet of rock to at last free the six miner working each Monday when part of the mountain shook and fell. The co-owner of the Crandall Canyon Mine, Robert E. Murray, said it would take three days, at least, to learn whether the miner were still alive and it made its physically reach them. A key obstacle Monday was, ensuring the drilled straight down 1,000 feet for communication, and to provide food and water. AFP

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PBA trims 'top man' choices to 5

BARRIOS

DAYTON

WEBB

CORDERO

Eala's interim successor known Monday

By Manuel R. Carrillo

AND THEN THERE WERE FIVE.

The executive committee of the PBA board of governors yesterday trimmed down to five the list of candidates for officer in charge who will take over the post of resigned commissioner Noli Eala, with an extraordinary meeting.

Arnaud "Sonny" Bantug, who served as OIC when the late commissioner Jun Bernardo left it in 2001, Lucino Nalan, Pido Gaston, former mayor Freddie Webb and current GAB commissioner Ed Cordero were picked from a list of 29 candidates during a meeting yesterday.

PBA chair Ricky Vargas of Talk 'N Text, honoring chair Tony Chua of Red Bull, Jaeger Tiffo of Alaska and MCC representative Lito Alvarez came up with the names.

"The announcement will be made on Monday, a few days before the 32nd season's first opening day PBA Rookie Draft

PBA /A 28

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Boom Boom, Gerry fights to decide World Cup duel

By Recah Trinidad

SACRAMENTO, CHIPPING — Fighters from the Philippines and Mexico are super ready for the supremacy duels but organizers were at a loss Wednesday night on how to score and award the World Cup of Boxing Bout will be disputed at the Arco Arena here on Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila).

A problem exploded in the WBO junior flyweight eliminator between Filipino Gerry Balonong and Gerardo Verdo after the Mexican was pulled out of the ring due to a breached rules.

The fight was cancelled outright, thus leaving only an event on Saturday. In the original co-main fight card that should momentarily determine the greater boxing nations between the Philippines and Mexico.

Balonong, 26, told the Inquirer he was terribly disappointed after having labored hard for seven months with the hope of now going for a world career after his bout today night match.

"It's a pity" said youthful Michael Aldagoni, who has taken over the management of the RP team from his father, the well-admired sportsman Antonio Aldagoni Cuba.

The young Aldagoni, who Wednesday had a lengthy meeting with Guinness Boy Productions executive Eric Gomez at the downtown Sagebrush Inn where the RP boxers are quartered, said organizers were expected to come up with a solution as he faxed to a press conference today.

UNDERDOG: Boom Boom Bautista

GRUDGER: Daniel Ponce De Leon

Desperate organizers

In desperate semi-organizers that they had considered going to the OO, 6 rounds between Manny Pacquiao and Marco Antonio Barrera to break a possible tie in the six-bout World Cup of Boxing that will award possession of a gleaming, gem-studded trophy, estimated to cost $500,000, to the winner.

"But that is out of the question, because the World Cup has to be decided on the same evening," Aldagoni told the boxers.

A most likely solution could be the assigning of two points, instead of the usual single point, to the main event between Boy "Boom Boom" Bautista and WBO super bantamweight king Daniel Ponce de Leon of Mexico.

The 22-year-old Bautista, a farmer's son from Bohol, was tagged an underdog against the hitherto, 27-year-old champion from the tough Tarahumara Indian tribe of the Chihuahua Mountains in Mexico.

Gerry Peñalosa goes for the WBO bantamweight crown of Jhonny Gonzales in the companion main event that has been tipped as a possible fight of the year together with the Bautista-De Leon title clash.

Complete fight card

Completing the six-bout World Cup card are:

IC Cuevas vs Eric Ortiz at 115 lbs; Oscarito Gabi vs Angel Serrano, 122 lbs; RP bantamweight champion Rodolfo Dayondon vs Miguel Lizama, 122 lbs; and undefeated RJ Rasid, 18, against another Mexican whose name had yet to be submitted last night.

Mexico, a renowned producer of world champs, outsupped Thailand in the initial staging of the World Cup of Boxing in Phuket in December 2008.

The monumental conquest by Manny Pacquiao of a slew of Mexican ring heroes that included former Hall-of-Famers Erik Morales and Barrera, has prompted the Philippines as the newest seed of world class boxing heroes.

As the quarterback of the RP impedimenta, a heavy, golden tush lies on the young shoulders of the 21-year-old Bautista, whose last outing showed he has to outgrow his defensive limitations if he's to send RP pride soaring in the ruby, disarming cupids of California.

Archers take on Tigers as UAAP returns tomorrow

THE UAAP MEN'S basketball competition will resume tomorrow with the defending champion University of Santo Tomas Tigers and the La Salle Green Archers clashing in the 4 p.m. finals game at the Araneta Coliseum.

The rookie filled Tigers and the Philippines Monsters and the Natural 12 Bulldogs will usher in the second round at 2 p.m.

Officials called off the games yesterday due to inclement weather.

The cancellation pushed back the timeslot of the Fun Warriors' bid for an eighth straight win versus the the Generic Initiatives.

The preceding game between the Ateneo Blue Eagles and the Adamson Falcons will also be moved to a later date.

Jerry Yee will be the focal point of the Archers' defense after the Tigers' top senior emerged as the league's top rookie early-stage of 16.1 points, a league best 36.7 rebounds and one block per game in the first round.

The league's offfield statistician and Senator Jinkee sanford Jewel Mendoza of the National U Bulldogs is the top player in the juniors division with 19.1 ppg and 8.9 rpg, and Ateneo's Jolo Mendoza (16.9 ppg and 9.1 rpg) and RR Garcia (16.1 ppg and 6 assists) and UE's Ruben Gregorio (13.8 ppg).

De La Salle Zobel's Marco Soriano, who was tops in assists and steals in junior play, stood second with 11.1 ppg, 10.6 apg and 3.8 spg. Top scorer Joseph Sheppard of the UP Junior Maroons (21.1 ppg and 17.9 rpg), the Junior Archers' Kevin Ferrer (17.8 ppg and 8.1 apg) and the UE Cagers' Adrian Santos (17.1 ppg and 12.7 rpg) rounded up the top five.

The Tigers completed a seven game sweep with rookie Art Nepal firing 13 of his 17 points from beyond the arc to lift the defending champions past the 0552 Baby Tanamoon, 65-56, recently at the FEU Gym. Alcantara IV, Pepe

STANDINGS	W	L
[illegible]	7	1
[illegible]	6	1
[illegible]	5	2
[illegible]	4	3
[illegible]	3	4
[illegible]	2	5
[illegible]	1	6
[illegible]	0	7

TODAY'S GAMES
(No Action Due Games)
(4) Mapua (PPG)
(5) [illegible] – [illegible]
(6) [illegible] – [illegible]
(7) [illegible] – [illegible]

Lions eye Final 4; Cards clash with Stags

SAN JUAN, PHILIPPINES — Lemuel Lemuel failed to do what it goes up against troubled St. Benilde, even as Mapua and San Sebastian prevailed to go in Final Four contention in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at The Arena in San Juan.

The Red Lions, slowly but surely regaining their confidence and form, encounter a semifinal berth with a victory against the Blazers, who are out of the running with a 1-7 record.

But the Red Lions can't take any chances in the 4 p.m. game less they suffer the fate of the Letran Knights, who bowed to the Mapua Cardinals, 89-92, Wednesday.

The loss by the Knights, the only side the Red Lions have to beat so far, allowed San Beda to regain the top spot with a 7-1 record.

The Blazers went here much more to offer, though, with one of their stars, Bacho Ortiza, suspended indefinitely due to game-fixing charges.

In Benilde, the 2008 season champion, also took an 87-66 beating from San Beda in the first round.

The Cardinals, their Final Four hopes revived with that big win over the Knights, must battle their 2 p.m. date with the Stags to keep their chances.

"I told the players that, individually, are out match up with any other team," said Mapua coach Leo Isaac. "Hopefully, we can get into the next level, because Letran as some can still make it to the Final Four."

San Sebastian is not having a great season, either but, at 3-4, it has brighter prospect than Mapua (3-6) Marc Anthony Reyes

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	7	1
Letran	6	1
San Sebastian	3	4
Mapua	3	4
Benilde	2	5
Perpetual	1	6
St. Stanislaus	0	7

TODAY'S GAMES
(No Action Due Games)
(4) Mapua (PPG)
(5) [illegible] – [illegible]
(6) [illegible] – [illegible]
(7) [illegible] – [illegible]
St. Benilde (Ste)

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JUICY FIVE: Making it to the PARES with Marlboro brand manager Eric Caramboa (third from left) are (from left) Allan Sindollo, Chris Bocaptina, Eddy de la Merced, Macario Nat and Ryan Eubora.

RP racing queen, 4 others secure Marlboro F1 stint

RACING QUEEN GABBY DELA CRUZ AND four equally competitive men emerged as the best in the Marlboro Pinoy Racing School 2009 racing camp recently, earning a Formula One driving experience next month in Italy.

After three days of activities that included karting sessions, simulated skill tests, adventure races and pit lane simulations, Dela Merced stamped her class along with a businessman based in Cagayan de Oro, a licensed pilot, and two college students who earned the right to be flown by Philip Morris Manufacturing Philippines Inc. to the Ferrari and Marlboro factory in Italy.

De la Merced knows she had a built-in edge as far as driving was concerned but had to dig deep into her vast repertoire of skills to make the team.

"I knew from the beginning that it really wasn't about racing—there was a lot of attributes they would consider," said Dela Merced, 20, a veteran of the Asian Formula. Three notes who is also a television host and Big Football coach.

"It's not really about skill. Honestly, I don't know the formula but I did something right."

Pressure from within

For businessman Chris Bocaptina, pilot Allan Sindollo, architect Ryan Eubora and Marario Nat, the pressure came from within.

"There was no pressure at all from the other participants," said Nat, 35, who is connected with a state government organization based in Bukidnon. "Coming to this project this, I came here to enjoy, to experience karting, to experience what Marlboro can give us."

Sindollo, 28, knows life in the fast lane as a pilot for seven years now. Still, the winning karting experience is nothing to sneeze at.

"I've actually dreamt of getting into a Formula," he said. "Then, I'm actually going to ride one. That's aside from driving an Alfa Romeo."

Half a million entries

The five came from an original field of over half a million entries from around the country. The field was reduced to 50 after weeks of elimination and competing by organizers and were treated to a race experience competing in karts and undergoing various tests.

"I had no racing experience," said Bocaptina, 23. "There are no race tracks in Mindanao, so my racing experience was limited to video games. Maybe there are my skills coming in. Maybe they saw the drive in me. Through my eyes, I'm sincerely."

"This came to fruition," Marlboro brand manager Eric Caramboa said.

Including the five will ride a Ferrari Formula One car and drive Prince Lorcf Alfa Romeo coach cars on the Florence circuit.

Federer wins on b-day

MONTREAL—ROGER FEDERER had little to say about as he struggled against the save-up serve of Ivo Karlovic before cruising out a glance in the third round of the ATP Montreal Masters, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/5).

But the challenging Wednesday was in the turbo named 28 still served as an opportunity for lost fans.

They used nightly to cheer the celebrations early, interrupting the latest second set with a sing-along of the Quebecois version of 'Happy Birthday' before Federer was later presented with a cake on court.

Boards used Nikolay Davydenko of Russia took a win over Peru Jaidas Monteiro, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5). Andy Roddick put up Scandinavian Istomin Clement, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5).

AFP

TIGER WOODS looks pensive the practice green. Reuters

Tiger starts PGA title defense

TULSA, OKLAHOMA—EXCITing Fairbairn have become a feature of the PGA Championship in recent years and top-ranked Tiger Woods defending fan Ollie this week should create more in the it's forefront 1886.

Woods seeks his 13th major title in pursuit of Jack Nicklaus' all-time record of 18 major crowns when a field that includes 99 of the world's 100 top-ranked golfers tees off in the year's final top-level tournament.

"The course is in fantastic shape," Woods said. "The weather's good enough where you can really control your shot and interpret whether or not you can get to the green, so it will be a pretty darned good test that week."

So we can look the last like Woods, who comes off his fourth victory of the year last week at the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational, tonight stroke using equipment on other fields.

Woods won last year's PGA Championship at Medinah for five clothes.

Ernie Els Open winner Bubba Huntington could players, will Ellis Stephenson two-shot strokes at a PGA where scores are low possible compared to par.

AFP

Bonds makes it 757

SAN FRANCISCO—BARRY BONDS, WITH THE PRESSURE OF PENning baseball's all-time home run record finally off, cracked an home run connecting the ninth on Wednesday.

The San Francisco Giants slugger sent a first-inning 1-1 pitch from Washington Nationals starter Tim Redding an estimated 420 feet deep into McCovey Cove for home run number 757 and a quick 2-1 lead.

Since the ballpark opened for the 2000 season, Bonds has deposited 35 into the bay, where memorable homers in August went poised to scoop them up.

Redding became the 497th different pitcher to give up a home run to the 43-year-old Bonds.

Bonds broke Hank Aaron's revered career home run record of 755, which had stood for more than three decades, on Tuesday with a fifth-inning homer against Nationals lefthander Mike Bacsik.

Bonds' third inning four Nationals pitchers Mike Bacsik.

Collins on Bush

Meanwhile, US President George W Bush phoned Bonds a day after hitting his 756th home run. The former owner of the Texas Rangers baseball club told Bonds "you've always been a great hitter and you broke a great record," White House spokesman Tony Fratto said.

AP

WORLD SERIES-BOUND

Bacolod softbelles stranded at RMSC

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT'S A SAD CASE OF STRANDED DREAMS.

Ten members of the Bacolod-Negros girls' softball team have been holed up at the dormer South Terrace of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex since Monday waiting for a ticket that would take them to the Junior League World Series in Richland, Washington.

And unless sufficient cash is raised in time, the young Negrenses, aged 11-14, are destined to go back to Bacolod City.

"If your team wants to win in terms of Sunday (Monday) to Manila) and the girls should leave to carry them today to be able to make it to the opening ceremonies.

But their plane tickets are missing.

One of the coaches, Lupinan Cichon, said yesterday that eight tickets are worth coming, or self-sponsoring Wardeed coaches Honore Bais, the team's delegates to have tells us also dubbed it "radical" said it's that the team's hit-and-run participation.

But, tells us still in Bacolod City, is said to be having a tough time pooling resources for the team, which finished second in a Florida squad in the same event last year.

Cichon said they could not approach the school City officials like Rep. Monico Puentevella because they have already shouldered the team's campaign last year.

The campaign cost P1.5 million and it's also save with the travel company that issued the tickets for last year's trip.

The shortage of funds, however, has not dampened the team's enthusiasm and fighting spirit, according to Cichon.

"There is still hope," Cichon told the Inquirer. "If we have [enough], we will depart [in Washington] on Aug. 13. We still have nine to-bock aces stored."

The team is honoured by 14-year-old Andrei Benjamin, the sole pitcher who is veteran of the 11-12 Little League World Series in Portland, Oregon, two years ago.

Another Bacolod team is hoping to make it not total pride in 2005 when it won the junior Junior League World Series.

Cichon said the team is confident of pulling off a surprise this year—that is if they could reach the places in Richland in time.

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- 1.0 ha lot Rizal Area, Nueva Ecija
- 1

SPORTS

UNDER-16 CHESS OLYMPIAD

RP bets stun Indians

Standings after seven rounds: 1) India—Abhijeet Gupta 6½, Parimarjan Negi 6½, Surya Ganguly 6½, Krishnan Sasikiran 6½, Deep Sengupta 6½, Sundararajan Kidambi 6½, Pentala Harikrishna 6½, Sahaj Grover 6½, Abhijit Kunte 6½, Sandipan Chanda 6½, Ankit Rajpara 6½, Shyam Nikhil Sundar

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BUSINESS

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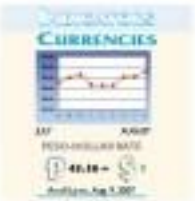
BIR hits critics of transport tax hike



Gov't collecting only 7% of taxes due

By Michelle V. Rama

DISHONESTY AMONG OPERATORS OF LAND, water and air transport vehicles has led to the government's anemic collection of the common carriers tax, generating a measly 7 percent of the potential revenues from this sector last year.

The Department of Finance said the Bureau of Internal Revenue collected only P400 million in common carriers taxes last year out of P5.5 billion in supposed tax liabilities of the transport sector.

Transport operators are required under law to pay a common carriers tax equivalent to 3 percent of their gross income.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said the BOR's study on the lost potential revenues from the common carriers tax used the National Income Accounts as basis. The NIA, prepared by the National Statistical Coordination Board, is a record of the economy's output resulting from the contributions of each industry.

"The National Income Accounts showed that the (transport sector) earned much, but only paid so little (common) carriers tax," Beltran said.

The finance official said the study reiterated the need for the BIR to implement reforms in the collection of taxes to shore up collections and generate more revenues needed for social services and infrastructure.

Beltran said the tax leaks in the transport sector were the main reason the BIR issued Revenue Regulations No. 9-2007, which exempted as base the minimum common carriers tax.

(BUSINESS)

IN THIS ISSUE

- **WB plans** to raise PSB from bonds /B3
- **Hot** money hit $3.5B as of July /B4

PSE, industry seek mineral reporting code

Accurate information on firms' resources, reserves

By Amy S. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE IS urging the local mining sector to adopt a Philippine Mineral Reporting Code or PhilRC, deemed as a crucial tool in enticing more stock market investments.

In a roundtable discussion hosted by the Chamber of Mines, PSE president Francis Lim said shares were only 14 mining firms listed on the local bourse and that this could have been higher had it not for the decision of some Philippine mining companies to list overseas.

The missing element here, according to Lim, is the code or the PhilRC.

"We don't know the exact reasons why these firms decided to list abroad but we think that mining investors prefer markets with reporting methods and procedures that are harmonized," said Lim.

"So, if I were a mining firm and I need capital to exploit a local mining site, I would not take chances by listing in a market where reporting standards do not look familiar to my target financiers so to speak. It would lessen my chances of getting investors," he explained.

According to Lim, the PhilRC provides minimum standards, recommendations and guidelines for public reporting of exploration results, mineral resources and ore reserves.

The code is a listing requirement that can provide the public and investors more accurate information on the real resources and reserves of the mining companies.

The PhilRC also provides a mandatory system for classification of tonnages/grade estimates.

Lim says the exchange hopes to implement the PhilRC within the year, so soon as its implementing rules and regulations are completed. The PSE board has earlier approved a resolution adopting the use of this code.

The PhilRC was based on international codes of Australia, South Africa, European Union and Canada.

There is no genuine no particular standard governing the disclosures of resources, or a code for the assessment of the true and actual exploration assets of a company.

Chamber of Mines president Benjamin Philip Romualdez says the PhilRC would protect the public and investors from companies that are "playing" mining in the stock exchanges" and not to actual mines at sites.

"Companies would feel the need to follow the code as potential investors would likely treat companies that have global standards. Noncompliance to the code may serve as a red flag for them," Romualdez said.

According to Lim, eight projects of mining firms are growing faster than the PSE index.

Last year, the mining and oil index surged 63.1 percent while the PSEi went up by 42.7 percent.

As of July this year, the mining and oil index expanded by 43.6 percent, while the PSEi increased by 11.4 percent.

"Local and foreign investors will be less worried about the veracity of mining reports if there is a standard that the industry has to follow. With the Code comes credibility, which can ultimately attract more investors," Romualdez added.

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Gov't may prepay some ODAs

By Ma. Isella V. Reino

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE STRENGTHening of the peso, the national government plans to start prepaying some of its official development assistance-obligations, Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan said yesterday as the government had been finding ways to cut service payment of some of its liabilities in line with its debt management strategies.

With the strengthening of the peso, the government is encouraged to retire some of its foreign debts.

The peso hovers within the 40-to-41 territory much stronger than the 40 to 50 average projected by government's economic managers when they crafted this year's national budget.

Since the government has already prepaid some of its foreign commercial debts, including those obtained through the issuance of Bradylinked Tan said it might be possible for it to pay some of its outstanding ODAs this time.

Government data showed that as of December 2006, outstanding ODAs amounted to $9.5 billion. Unlike commercial loans, ODAs are concessional in nature, carrying interest rates much lower than commercial rates.

Of the outstanding ODAs, $4.7 billion came from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). This was followed by the $1.0 billion in loans from the Asian Development Bank and the $1.1 billion from the World Bank. The balance came from the governments of Australia, Germany, Korea, Netherlands and Saudi Arabia.

Finance Undersecretary Tan said the capability to prepay some of its debts, especially with the savings it generated from interest payments in the first half.

The Department of Finance earlier reported that the government paid P163.4 billion less than it had budgeted for payment of its interests on maturing loans in January to June. The savings was a result of the appreciation of the peso and lower interest rates.

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Peza backs APC plan to focus on ecozones

By Abigail L. Ho

ABOITIZ POWER CORP. (AP) eliminated an assessment from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority that the firm's appliance costs for power distribution deals in various ecozones would be reviewed and considered.

Peza director general Lilia de Lima said the company's plan to expand its distribution portfolio through acquisitions of private distribution utilities and existing power distribution deals with economic zones was very much welcome.

"It [APC] is very much capable to deliver power. We will definitely look into their applications to supply power in economic zones," she said.

APC officials met with De Lima to discuss, as an example, how subsidiary Subic Electricity Corp. had been able to improve power distribution within the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

The company said that since it took over the power distribution service in the Freeport in 2003, it had been able to reduce power costs there by bringing down its system loss levels.

In May last year, the company had expressed interest to bid for the power requirements of various economic zones under Peza nationwide.

In a bid to bolster expand its power distribution business, APC has forged agreements to acquire Mactan Electric Corp. and 60 percent of Bohol Light Company Corp., both in Cebu.

"We are also considering entering into agreements to manage the distribution systems of other economic zones, such as the Mactan Economic Zone I and II and the Bataan Economic Zone," the company said.

The company's power distribution portfolio includes Visayan Electric Co. Inc. (Veco), Davao Light and Power Co. Inc. (DLP), Cotabato Light and Power Co. Inc. (CLP), Subic Enerzone Corp., and San Fernando Electric Light and Power Co. Inc. in Ilocos.

Swap deal a business decision, say PRCI lawyers

THE LAWYERS FOR THE MAjority directors of the Philippine Racing Club Inc. yesterday said defendants of the company's planned property-for-shares swap deal should let the law take its course instead of raising issues that only confuse the public.

"The issue has been elevated to the Court of Appeals and is awaiting resolution. Our clients have maintained that putting PRCI's 21 hectare land to a majority-owned property subsidiary was a pure and simple business decision. Since it is being done in the normal course of business, PRCI shareholders should be allowed to vote in favor of or against the deal," lawyers at the Manalo, Pantaleon and Guevara Law Offices said in a statement.

The lawyers said Brigido Dimaculangan—the PRCI director representing three of the more than a thousand shareholders—had abandoned his—had stopped the PRCI board from voting on the deal by securing a restraining order from the Makati Regional Trial Court.

"Yet, in questioning the SEC in the appellate court, the lawyers advanced all purported documents in the CA and the Philippine Stock Exchange explaining our clients' position," they said.

"This [the swap plan] is an effort by all shareholders working together," they said.

Water, poverty and technology

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

LAST AUG. 6, AGRICULTURE Secretary Arthur Yap reported that damage to rice from the dry spell may amount to between P600 million and P1.14 billion, or about 200,000 to 400,000 metric tons (Isabela Office of the National Economic and Development Authority said). "Gross that there are as many farmers affected by drought, the effect on poverty would be substantial."

Sporadic availability of water may be inconvenient for well-all urban dwellers, but for say three million rice farmers, this spells disaster. Here is where technology comes in.

Rice is not aquatic

For rice production, most believe that the more the water, the better. The rice crop uses large amounts of water because of the misbelief that continuous flooding is required. But System of Rice Intensification (SRI)-Filipinas national coordinator Robert Verzola says: "Rice is not an aquatic plant. With continuous flooding, most of rice plant's energy is spent by the start of the reproductive phase."

The SRI technology instead, proposes that the soil be well drained during the vegetative growth period. This way, the soil will be aerated, which is good for the plant's full growth and health.

A Cornell University study shows that rice farmers using SRI can achieve twice as much yield by using half as much water. It states: "Since yields can double or more with only half the water, the productivity of water is greatly increased.

Philippine experience

The Bigas Yes Invest—recognized by Unesco as the SRI's heritage site—is testament to its beauty and remarkable rice-based culture—is endangered. The farmers there are withdrawing from rice cultivation because it is not remunerative enough.

To address the problem, the agricultural technicians from the local municipal government introduced SRI in the production of indigenous aromatic rice, a local favorite called sinaruna. Using much less water, SRI technology produced 15.8 tons per hectare. That is more than twice the average national yield of 4.3 tons per hectare using the conventional technology of continuous flooding.

Another example, as shown in the table below is the SRI experience of Bong Salazar, now the Municipal Agriculture Officer of Victoria, Laguna. Salazar says: "With water conservation, we are considering setting into agreements to manage the distribution systems of other economic zones, such as the Mactan Economic Zone I and II and the Bataan Economic Zone," the company said.

The company's power distribution portfolio includes Visayan Electric Co. Inc. (Veco), Davao Light and Power Co. Inc. (DLP), Cotabato Light and Power Co. Inc. (CLP), Subic Enerzone Corp., and San Fernando Electric Light and Power Co. Inc. in Ilocos.

SRI BEST YIELDS

Cavans	Tons
160	8.0
170	8.5
180	9.0

KEY SRI FEATURES

- Transplant 8-12 day-old seedlings, NOT 1-30 days
- Single seedling per hill, not 3-4 seedlings
- Wide spacing (at least 25 cm. not close spacing
- After 2-day flooding, keep drained for 7 days, not continuous flooding
- Control weeds with mechanical weeder, not chemical reagent

Other findings

On March 7-8 last year, a conference was held at the International Rice and Research Institute in Los Baños: "International Dialogue on Rice and Water: Exploring Options for Food Security and Sustainable Environment."

At that meeting, Shinichi Sato reported that in a large scale irrigation project in Bandung Indonesia, SRI methodology increased yields from 3.9 tons to 7.2 tons per hectare, or by 84 percent. There was also 40 percent savings in water, and a fourfold increase in net income.

The January 2006 edition of Agriculture notes that experiments in SRI successes had been demonstrated in more than 25 countries. Water requirements are reduced by 25-50 percent, with corresponding yield increases. It states: "This gives farmers incentives to reduce their water use, when growing rice, especially since SRI methods can also reduce farmer's costs of production. This increases their net incomes even more than their yields."

In the Philippines, three years and three months since the SRI was brought to the attention of the Department of Agriculture (DA) through on April 14, 2004 hyperlink article. To his credit, when Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap took charge, he immediately provided a P5 million fund for SRI after Abraxas Agribusiness presented him the three findings.

Verzola has since managed the fund. He is so saddened about the SRI result that only half a week he said he would be willing to work full time on SRI's national expansion. (For more information, call or text Verzola at 0921 2005/1528.)

Last year, SRI got a P1 million allocation, only nationwide nonirrigated rice project (P500 million for irrigated rice). The green revolution grows. Perhaps the water crisis and the water-saving aspects of SRI were not obvious then. Hopefully, the situation has changed.

Next month, as the DA and the Department of Budget prepare the DA budget, it is hoped that this time, an appropriately significant budget will be given for SRI. It is this technology that promises to be a key solution in confronting the water crisis, and the challenge of adhering to poverty.

(The author is the chair of Agrewatch. For inquiries, email agrewatch@ yahoo.com or telefax (02) 412-2112).

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BIR hits critics . . .

From page B1

that operators of land transport vehicles should remit.

Unfortunately, he said, the BIR has been criticized for the regulation, which sought to increase the common carriers tax remitted by operators of buses, jeepneys and taxis by 3,000 percent.

The regulation was supposed to take effect on Aug. 24, but President Macapagal-Arroyo herself ordered a thorough review of the regulation following protests from transport operators and criticisms from some lawmakers.

The transport operators' protest was against the inflation from 1978 to 2006. BIR officials earlier explained that the minimum amounts of gross income that operators were required to declare under the Tax Code were not changed since 1978 prices.

Following the President's directive, the BIR has deferred the implementation of the regulation and said it is now looking at a gradual increase of the tax to appease transport operators.

"I thought what we wanted was for the BIR to work and [improve] tax collection. Now that it is implementing reforms, it is being criticized," Beltran said.

The BIR is tasked to collect P956.0 billion this year to help the government meet its deficit reduction goal. In the first half, however, the BIR fell short of its target, collecting only P434.7 billion compared with the target of P472.3 billion for the first six months.

More Dutch firms outsourcing to RP

By Abigail L. Ho

LEE MANY OF THEIR countrymates in other parts of the world, companies from the Netherlands are finding the Philippines an attractive outsourcing center, still due mainly to the country's pool of highly skilled, English-speaking workers.

Brian Alstein, managing director of Dutch information technology firm IMRO Software Solutions, said the Philippines was generally a good offshore alternative for European companies.

"Services of even the more common business processes will be hard (and expensive) to come by in Europe, and the Philippines is a very good alternative low-cost center for (business process outsourcing)," he said in a statement.

He said the country's access to telecommunications infrastructure, skilled workers and largely English-speaking population continued to give it a competitive edge over many other potential BPO sites the world over.

Other cyber factors included relatively low labor costs as well as cultural similarities with Western countries, he added.

What the government and local stakeholders should do is make the country more attractive to potential outsourcers, he said, was package is properly by highlighting its competitive advantages.

"The Philippines should be marketed properly to the West. There should be more focus on the business side of the country: language advantage, academic infrastructure, high-tech cities like Makati, Eastwood City and Ortigas Center," he said.

He said one good way of showcasing the country's merits was through government-sponsored trade missions, usually organized by the Department of Trade and Industry's Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions.

"With more foreign nationals in the Philippines, a larger network of investors is created, thus improving the promotion of the Philippines to the West," he said.

There are currently around 200 Dutch companies in the country, including big-name firms such as Shell, Philips, Unilever and ING Bank.

"The Dutch are very cautious when it comes to outsourcing. This gives for most of the European market. Trade missions to Europe helps that and, to important steps, project the Philippines as an attractive offshore location," Alstein said.

WB plans to raise ₱5B from bonds

By Michelle V. Rerta

THE WORLD BANK HAS EXPRESSED plans to issue P5 billion in peso-denominated bonds to bankroll its lending programs in the Philippines.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan said the World Bank may conduct the bond issue in two tranches.

A timetable has yet to be set for the proposed bond flotation, but the said it could possibly be done by the end of the year.

As of December last year, the World Bank was the third largest foreign lender to the Philippine government, accounting for 10 percent of the country's $9.1 billion in GOP liabilities.

Proceeds to fund Philippine projects

Last year, the World Bank granted a $200-million "Development Policy Loan," to the Philippine government on top of sifty-to financial assistance.

The loan was not tied to any specific project but served as budgetary support for the government.

Other GSA extended by the World Bank to the Philippines finished programs for public health and environmental services, as well as enhancement of the tax collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Tan said the World Bank's plan to issue peso-denominated bonds indicated growing investor confidence in the local currency.

He said that besides the World Bank, the International Finance Corp., a World Bank unit responsible for providing credit to the private sector, likewise plans to issue peso-denominated bonds.

Tan said it was not unusual for multilateral agencies to issue bonds denominated in pesos.

The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have issued peso bonds before. IFC, on the other hand, will be doing it for the first time.

ADB issued peso-denominated bonds last year and was able to raise P5 billion.

Veterans Bank posts ₱250-M profit in H1

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE VETERANS Bank, a medium-sized commercial bank owned by Filipino war veterans and their heirs, posted a 6-percent rise in net profit in the first half to P249.95 million from a year ago.

Higher revenues from treasury trading and investment activities as well as fee income were the main income growth drivers in the first semester, the bank reported yesterday.

"We're satisfied with the bank's performance so far this year, and we remain optimistic that the bank will reach its growth targets for 2007," said PVB president and CEO Ricardo Bellizo Jr.

The bank wants to post a net income of P600 million by the end of the year, from P418.2 million recorded last year.

In terms of assets, PVB's total resources stood at P30 billion as of end-June, P3.3 billion higher than the P26.1 billion level in 2006. Growth in total assets was primarily fueled by the increase in the bank's deposits.

Every year, 20 percent of the private bank's net income is given to the Board of Trustees for the Veterans of World War II (BOTWWII), which carrying war veterans programs, and their families for the benefit of the

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Latest Unit Value Aug 7, 2007	Last Unit Value July 31, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.282916	1.278665
Managed Fund - Peso	1.352277	1.337552
Growth Fund - Peso	1.412251	1.395825
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.4001	1.3981

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More 'hub ports' urged

SANSO CITY—THE major players in Mindanao's shipping industry have recommended the creation of "hub ports" to spur economic development.

Manuel Antonio, infrastructure development specialist of the US-funded Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM), said that currently only small vessels can dock at the island's ports because of the lack of infrastructure to accommodate big ships.

To solve this problem, Antonio, who attended the recent bi-concluded Mindanao Shippers Congress, said shipping industry stakeholders in Mindanao are eyeing the conversion of the Mindanao Container Terminal Port in Cagayan de Oro City and the Davao Port into hub ports.

"The magnitude of development should be focused on the hub ports," he said.

He said the MCT port, which started operating last year, has the best equipment compared to other ports in Mindanao and can accommodate big vessels.

The Davao port on the other hand, is one of the busiest ports.

Antonio said the consolidation of export shipments in these two ports would mean that shippers would save more on costs, Rhodalyn Arro, Inquirer Mindanao

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

FRONT Journalist Wang Portugal drinks at the bar

LIFESTYLE reporter Jovel Canoy (right) of MyPA and Sunshine Palanca review flavors for entertainers Saturday at the bar.

Writers, announcers, bar owners

Palawan journalists turn entrepreneurs

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The decision to open up a watering hole was not at all inspired by an entrepreneurial instinct.

A small group of media practitioners simply wanted a place to hang out and unwind after the day's work. Little did they expect that a subsequent beer binge would ultimately drive them up as a municipal bar, would quickly turn into the business up in town.

The novelty of being served drinks by news anchors, reporters and local media personalities is the selling point of Lorelei's Music Bar. And to be rather mild right life in Puerto Princesa, the idea seemed to click.

Joel Canoy, the club's manager, is an entertainment show host for local station dyPR.

Drivers by "about 10 o'clock in the night life," he had talked his media friends into pooling money to open up a music bar.

"Gradually long outgo here. We didn't have the business background and enough capital to begin with. But we had to be creative in settling the challenge," Canoy-ida says.

Canoy-ida and five other media practitioners put up a mere P10,000 to start the business in operating capital. They then convinced Lory Webber, owner of a small restaurant, to join them. Hence, the name Lorel's Bar.

To refurbish the gig, everyone chipped in the work of repainting the small walls of the restaurant, fixing the plumbing and cleaning up the surroundings.

The partners now take turns doing the daily chores of marketing, loading up cases of beer into the freezer, checking the inventory and cooking in the grocery store to buy needed items before opening time.

"During the first few days, the only things we could offer our guests were beer and cashew nuts. We didn't have a kitchen and we couldn't afford one," says Arnold Escobar, a former club owner himself who the group recruited as its business planner.

After a month in operation, Lorelei Bar was made a bit that it has been able to hire a cook and offer a modest range of dishes to its regulars.

On most weekends, it's filled with live entertainment from musicians, a popular local acoustic group whose lead singer, Jenn Cordela, is also an FM disc jockey and one of the club's co-owners.

Cordela and the drummer—they have organized a clientele base composed of young professionals, kindred spirits from the media sector, NGO workers, local artists, foreign tourists and town makers.

Marketing the place is done largely by word of mouth—and texting. Cordela's does the pitch while hosting his daily noontime entertainment talk show.

FACADE of Lorel's bar

RADIO newscaster Lourdes Encarnie Pura at cashier

"Ask just greet our patrons who come to the club the night before and we mention the place. It's a big help already and we're grateful that this management allows us to do so (appeal to us)," he said.

Profit share

Barely two months after they opened Lorel's on June 15, the owners got their first profit share.

"It wasn't much because we plowed back most of the income to improve and upgrade the place. But it's a definite thrill that we experienced our first profit sharing," says Ramona Paz, who writes for the local weekly tabloid Bandilyo ng Palawan.

Lourdes Encarnie Paz, news anchor for dyPR-AM station, tends to the cash register most nights, rebuking the grumbling weekends when they work till the wee hours of the morning.

"It's tough to balance my schedule because I have to be at the station by 6 o'clock every morning for the newscast. Sometimes, I just go to the station directly from the bar to catch a few hours of sleep before my newscast," she says.

Arnold Jose Diaz copes with the challenge of maintaining journalistic integrity and keeping a healthy distance from their new sources, because they claim they simply try to deal their journalistic guts while they are at the bar.

"In fact most every guest professionally and we try not to talk about the news with our guests when they come. We simply try to entertain them with what we offer here in the bar—good food and music," the says. Inquirer desk/Inquirer Southern Luzon

Equity in law

TO BE SURE, THE WISDOM OF GRANTING privileges and benefits to senior citizens was never questioned by petitioners-drug companies in the Carlos Superdrug Case.

It is, however, on the aspect of obtaining appropriate reimbursements from the government that the petitioners' protest arose because the latter is now being compelled to partly subsidize a public program installed pursuant to the government's legislative agenda. Perhaps such protest is understandable.

To support its decision, the Supreme Court had at its convenience the pronouncements in established jurisprudence "legitimizing" the state's exercise of police power. However, the court may seem to have contradicted itself when it recognized the drug companies' entitlement to just compensation, but as it did in the previous RA 7432 Cases cited above. Contradictions also seem apparent in the court's interpretation and application of the concepts of police power and the power of eminent domain vis-à-vis the alleged confiscatory nature of the tax deduction system under the EVCA.

In a somewhat landmark case, the Supreme Court held that excess funds have shown a mingling of the police power and the power of eminent domain, with the latter being used as an implement of the former like the power of taxation.

Thus, measures prescribing retention limits for landowners (under the Agrarian Reform Law were deemed to involve the exercise of police power for the regulation of private property that when to carry out the regulation, it became necessary to deprive owners of whatever lands they may own in excess of the maximum area allowed, the court held that there was definitely a taking under the power of eminent domain for which payment of just compensation was imperative.

However, as a consequence of the Carlos Superdrug case, the government irrationality stands to benefit the most after having obtained a judicial imprimatur for its program that will be subsidized by private funds. In effect, the private drug companies shall be constrained to act as unwilling (or unwilling) benefactors to support the government's public health program.

The government may have justified the compulsory participation of private enterprises in implementing the EVCA. But if the acquisition of petitioners-drug companies will serve as common indicators of future market conditions with respect to the local drug industry, the prospect of increasing prices of locally sold drug products and commodities purchased by senior citizens may have become more real than imminent.

One way or another, the loss of profits and capital that may be incurred as a consequence of the EVCA will definitely have to be recouped by the private drug companies. And as the court recognized, raising profit margins and prices of commodities sold is a business discretion that private drug makers have the prerogative to exercise in the interest of the government to regulate prices of basic necessities and prime commodities purchased by the public.

TAX-FILES

Thus, the danger is that government's failure to independently sustain the EVCA discount programs with public funds may impose yet another burden on the public, particularly the senior citizens, who will be forced to buy medicines at higher prices.

In this respect, the governmental's Price Coordinating Council, under the administration of the Department of Health and Department of Trade and Industry, may yet prove to be a significant resource in conquering the possibilities of an end-to-way-with price increases in drug products and for other commodities commonly purchased by senior citizens.

Republic Act No. 7581, or the Price Act of 1992, would be a formidable deterrent against any abnormal and unjustified surges in drug prices merely intended to circumvent the application of the EVCA discount privileges.

Under the Price Act, severe sanctions are imposed upon persons who are found to have committed illegal acts of price manipulation on basic necessities and prime commodities, including profiteering and hoarding. Illegal acts of price manipulation under the Price Act include hoarding, profiteering and cartel.

To quell these bans and speculations, it may be wise for the government to consider reciprocating the "generosity" that has been legally imposed upon these private establishments affected by the EVCA transaction in the tax deduction scheme but has not acknowledged to be inadequate as a reimbursement measure.

This may be a fair alternative since the government's propensity to grant fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to its partners from the private sector is not at all unprecedented.

In fine, whether the legal vindication of these limited and conflicting interests between the state and the drug companies in the Carlos-Superdrug case has provided a sustainable "compromise" for the affected private establishments and the public still remains to be seen.

The law may be harsh, indeed, but henceforth, petitioners to obtain equitable remedies permit to the alleged confiscatory nature of the present tax deduction scheme under the EVCA must be addressed to the legislature, and not the courts, lest these private establishments be ready to contend yet again with the police power of the state.

How do we find and take advantage of our competitors' weaknesses?

Q: LET'S SAY THERE'S A JUICE DRINK brand that we're competing against and it has successfully positioned and has already created a particular product benefit. Or what can be referred to as "differentiated attribute." How do we go about finding its weakness? Can we as a marketer/ju juice drink brand hope to expect or even grab ownership of that particular, pre-created product attribute or benefit?

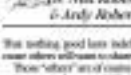
A: We should first make clear what we mean by a "differentiated" attribute. It was actually the senior fellow at who introduced this concept in his 1960 Applied Marketing Research. And the concept came out of his consumer behavior research.

For generic attributes like taste or flavor in a juice drink, for example, consumers eventually distinguish different types (or dimensions) of taste or flavor. One direction of dimensionalizing is orange, mango, strawberry, dalandan and each other fruit taste or flavor.

Another dimensionalizing direction is along the sweet versus sour continuum or combination. Thus, you find different segments of consumers talking about sweet, or just the right sweetness, or sour, or half-sweet and sour, and so on.

A third direction that's becoming current among more and more consumers is along the natural versus artificial taste.

Take the specific case of C2. We are told that C2 has successfully positioned and now already owns the dimensional, and taste attribute of "natural ingredients." So, how do we go about finding out what could be C2's weakness?



The law of reversals

We're tempted to say its research find use for you. This is not a bad recommendation, but it's the longer and more expensive road to take. There's a better, shorter and less expensive way of sourcing for the answers. This shortcut is the reverse of the famous Law. In 1994, David Landes popularized his version of this law and said:

"There is an answer to economics — that every situation beats the need of its own reversal. This is the law of reversals."

But nothing good lasts indefinitely because others will want to share it."

Those "others" are of course your competitors or in the case of C2, in competition as defined by the C2 consumers. The Law of Reversals predicts that C2's successful ownership of the dimensionalized "natural green tea" taste attribute will eventually be its "achilles heel." In comparison will want to share in that success. They will therefore come out with a similar, if not a better, natural green tea.

Once these new natural green teas succeed, the dimensionalized natural green tea attribute will no longer be a consumer motivator. That's because it's no longer distinct or no longer a USP (unique selling proposition).

That same another "law" takes over. It's the law of motivation that says: "It satisfied need no matter how important the need might be will not motivate." That's the law of motivation from Abraham Maslow.

So what becomes of a formerly distinctive product attribute that has been neutralized by most, if not by all competing brands? In the consumers, that attribute now becomes a "minimum requirement" attribute, another concept that the senior fellow at introduced in the same year and book as the concept of "dimensionalized" product attributes."

Modernizing consumers

The presence of minimum requirements attributes complicates the task of consumer motivating. This happens as follows. Before you can motivate consumers with an improved, still unsatisfied or undersatisfied product attribute, you have first to convince satisfying what its consumers have come to regard as the product category's minimum requirements attribute or attributes.

That same another "law" takes over. It's the law of motivation that says: "It satisfied need no matter how important the need might be will not motivate." That's the law of motivation from Abraham Maslow.

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So the positioning challenge to you as marketer is this: "Do you know your category's accumulated minimum requirements? And if you know, do you continue to satisfy them?"

Suppose you do not know and suppose if you know you do not intend to the accumulation of these minimum requirements. If you claim that you are currently enjoying a successful product positioning, then you must realize that your success will be short lived. Eventually your higher of the minimum requirements will catch up with you. When it does, then dissatisfy and strike your brand.

NEXT: How the inevitable reversal law of a successfully owned dimensionalized product attribute? See all dimensional and attributes suffer this fate. We know that all laws, including the Law of Inertia, have exceptions. Look at Safeguard's ownership of the dimensionalized safety attribute of "germ-free clean." Isn't it cool on this in a future column.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at marketingrx@yahoo.com. Thanks and God bless!

Gokongweis' snack food firm reports 200% increase in net income

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

DIVERSIFIED FOOD Corp. said its net income for the period October 2006 to June 2007 (fiscal three quarters of its fiscal year) soared 200 percent to P6.7 billion, from year-ago's P1.56 billion.

Announcing the results for the period—which it considered the company's first half in its fiscal year—include a P2.050 billion gain from the sale of JFC's Robinsons land Corporation (RLC) shares and P405 million in impairment loss provision for machines and equipment, the company said in information.

On a recurring basis, DFC's net income amounted to P2.116 billion, or 35 percent higher than the amount reported in the same period last year.

DFC's consolidated net sales and services for the nine months ended June 30 amounted to P27.481 billion, a 9.8 percent growth from P26.041 billion in the same period last year.

The largest contributor to the group's sales revenue, DFC's branded consumer food group's domestic operations, reported a 14-percent rise to 19.4795 billion due to higher sales volume. Beverage, accounting for 25.7 percent of domestic sales, recorded a 13.6-percent growth in sales value on the back of 7.1-percent increase in volume. Sales of snack foods increased by 4.9 percent to P4.796 billion, headed by domestic consumption snacks and chicken spending.

RLC revenue up 33%

ROBINSONS LAND Corp., the property arm of the Gokongweis, posted a 33-percent increase in gross revenue to P7.8996 billion for the quarter ending June 30.

This brought its nine-month revenue (from October to June) to P5.7962 billion, up 24 percent from year-ago's P1.5559 billion.

RLC's commercial centers division contributed 41 percent of the gross revenue.

The increase in revenue was due to strong rental income from almost 18 malls.

RLC's high-rise buildings division posted a 168-percent growth in revenue, from 91.441 billion last year to P 2.3 billion this year.

Recurring loss income from its five office buildings, Galleria Corporate Center, Robinsons Equitable Tower, Robinsons Summit Center and Robinsons Cyberscape Gamma Tower 1 and 2, amounted to P1.1 billion compared, up from P327 million in the last fiscal year.

Elizabeth Lacson

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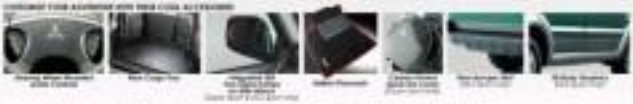

HOW COOL IS YOUR ADVENTURE?

The Philippines' International Motor Show

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

SMC net income surged 81% to ₱7.88B in the 1st half

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FOOD AND BEVERAGE GIANT San Miguel Corp. said its net income grew 81 percent to P7.88 billion in the first half from P4.36 billion a year ago.

Net sales reached P112.7 billion, 9 percent higher than the P103.7 billion in the same period last year.

While domestic beer and food businesses improved operating income by 21 percent and 10 percent, respectively, consolidated operating income declined 10 percent to P6.2 billion in the first half from P10.4 billion in the same period last year.

The drop was due to the increased costs of operations of San Miguel's non-beer business, Northern Foods Ltd.—a direct result of the prolonged drought in Australia.

San Miguel's domestic beer operations posted a 9-percent increase in volumes due to a robust second-quarter performance. Revenues grew 9 percent to P22.2 billion in the first half, from P20.4 billion last year. Operating income grew by 21 percent to P5.06 billion from P4.68 billion.

However, the company said San Miguel Brewing International Ltd. (SMBIL) ended the first semester with encouraging results. The second quarter's operating income significantly narrowed the first quarter's loss from considerable volume gains from South China, Australia and export operations offsetting the lower sales in Indonesia and South China.

Another beer San Miguel Inc. ended the first half with volumes rising 8 percent, fueled by domestic beer sales and exports. Revenues hit P6.22 billion or 3 percent higher from the P6.03 billion last year.

But despite an improved sales sale, operating income declined 46 percent to P460 million as high input costs and the disruption of the 8-percent rice excise tax offset gains in volume.

Gin-brewer's net income fell 46 percent to P220 million in the first half from P410 million a year ago.

The San Miguel Food Group brought in P58.7 billion in revenues for the first six months—up 5 percent year-on-year due to higher volumes across all business units and improved selling prices, particularly in the second quarter.

Operating income rose 10 percent to P1.116 billion as a result of significant cost improvement in dairy, processed meats and food service operations.

Meanwhile, the Packaging Group's revenues fell 9 percent to P5.25 billion.

Ramon del Rosa Jr., president and chief executive officer, said the company remains confident of its prospects for the rest of the year despite the prevailing drought conditions across the continent. He said higher rates of imported juice concentrates used tight fruit supply dragged operating income down 58 percent to ₱460.47 million in the first half, from ₱94.5 million in the same period last year. **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson**

Net sales up 9% to P112.7B

Transparent foundation work

THE WORD "FOUNDATION" HAS A peculiar ring that makes eyeballers of notarized corporations aspire to attached to their corporate name.

It gives the organization an image that sets it apart, in a positive way from the pack.

Corporations with deep pockets are keen enough to establish foundations or trust foundations, especially those managed by reputable persons.

And because money is involved, the crooks and con artists in our midst will not be far behind.

There have been published links to recent cases where fraudulent foundations were used as conduits to channel donations to private pockets and, worse, to finance the latter human rights violations and terrorist activities.

In the wake of these reports, the Securities and Exchange Commission last year amended the rules on the registration and operation of foundations.

Aside from maintaining strict compliance with the P1-million seed money requirement, SEC Memorandum Circular No. 8, issued in 2006, tightened up on the handling of foundation funds.

In keeping with the Anti-Money Laundering Act, the circular set down that all foundation funds to be deposited in banking institutions regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Projects

The circular also requires foundations to submit a certification from the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the Barangay Captain, or head of either the Department of Social Welfare and Development or Department of Health, on the projects undertaken in the areas in which these offices exercise jurisdiction.

The certification should be accompanied by a statement of the foundation's willingness to be audited by the BIR to verify the information given.

This requirement drew a query from a foundation that is undertaking a project to provide Internet connectivity to more than 5,000 public high schools in the country over the next five years.

The project is a joint effort of private corporations and civic organizations working in coordination and cooperation with the Department of Education.

The foundation said securing a certification from the mayors or barangay captains of every school that will be linked to the Internet project would be tedious and costly.

In lieu of individual certifications from the local government officials mentioned, the foundation asked if a certification from the DepEd would suffice for purposes of the subject requirement.

After all, the foundation said, the DepEd would be the recipient agency and beneficiary of the project.

Information

The SEC explained that the certification is aimed at ensuring the accuracy of the information that these foundations are required to submit to the SEC every year, namely:

- Income and Assets of Funds;
- Program/activity planned, ongoing and accomplished;
- Application of funds.

The certification is a means by which a government agency or officer can validate the implementation of the foundation's reported programs or activity.

In interpreting this requirement, the SEC adopted a liberal stance. It noted that the enumeration of the government agencies and offices embodied in issue the certification is not exclusive.

It was also the SEC's intention to screen a foundation from applying for the required certification with other government agencies, especially those that are directly involved in the program or activity.

Ruling

Thus, a certification issued by a government agency, department, bureau, offices or officer other than that given by the city or municipal mayor, barangay captain, or head of the Department of Social Welfare and Development or Department of Health, is valid.

It is noted though that the person or office that issued the certification can attest, based on its knowledge or information, that the reported program or activity of the foundation is actually being implemented in the place where that office or person exercises jurisdiction.

Accordingly, the SEC ruled that the certification of the DepEd on the foundation's Internet project complies with the requirement.

One final word. The reports that foundations should submit to the SEC must be signed by the president and treasurer, and sworn to before a notary public.

If the reports are not submitted in the required format within the prescribed period, the foundation may be ordered to pay a fine of not less than P10,000, and in case the violation is committed for two consecutive years, its registration may be revoked.

Corporate Securities Info is a column by Atty. Rizal Fidaleo. Send your letter to rizal.fidaleo@inquirer.com.ph.

Rizal J. Fidaleo/ca

SM Investments raises $100M from debt issue

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. (SMIC), the holding firm of mall tycoon Henry Sy, has raised P4.5 billion or roughly $100 million in new debt that it will use to fund the expansion of subsidiaries and refinance existing obligations.

SMIC said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that the debt came in the form of redeemable preferred shares issued to large institutional investors. The shares are cumulative, nonvoting, nonconvertible to common and are mandatorily redeemable at the end of five years.

The original size was P5 billion when the preferred shares issue was launched last month.

"The issue has the distinction of being the SM group's first redeemable preferred share issuance. We are pleased with the commitment of confidence from large institutional investors who subscribed to the issue, the pricing of which was at the lowest end of the indicated range," SMIC chief finance officer Steve Tan Cua said in a statement.

BDO Capital and Investment Corp. and PNB Trust Banking Group were lead arrangers and bookrunners for the issue.

Sources said the secure debt raised will bring the total debt generated by the company this year to $400 million.

SMIC has a $200-million debt it will refinance this year. The $66 group is also paying another tranche related to Sy's 2005 acquisition of Equitable PCI Bank.

The group is slated to pay P1.75 billion in February next year and P12.2 billion in October next year.

SMIC had said that it would spend P91 billion in capital expenditures over the next five years for the expansion of its subsidiaries.

Last February, SMIC issued five-year, seven-tranche bonds worth P200 million, which it said would be used to refinance some maturing debts and for general corporate purposes.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

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BUSINESS

Yamaha to build factory in Philippines

TOKYO—MAJOR JAPANESE motorcycle maker Yamaha Motor Co. announced plans yesterday to build a new factory in the Philippines as the company seeks to boost production at Southeast Asia's emerging markets.

The company based in central Japan said in a statement that the new plant—to be located in the city of Laguna, south of Manila—will allow it to more speedily respond to changes in the Philippines' growing two-wheeler market. It is scheduled to start operations in early 2009.

The company has yet to decide what models will be produced at the plant, its production capacity or the size of investment, it said.

The company also announced that its subsidiary Yamaha Motor Philippines Inc., will start assembling and selling motorcycles with 150cc to 250cc engines starting late September.

The subsidiary, which was established in May, is expected to have an annual output of 70,000 motorcycles in 2008, Yamaha said.

Motorcycle sales have been rising steadily in the Philippines thanks to the country's economic expansion, the company said. Sales in the country grew 6 percent to 620,000 units in 2006, it said.

Yamaha has been assembling and distributing its motorcycles with local partner Shrike Trading Co. since 1982.

Yamaha Motor has been expanding production in Asia to tap growing demand in emerging markets. Last month, the company announced plans to build a second motorcycle plant in Vietnam. AP

Hot money hit $3.5B as of July

By Doris C. Dumlao

BSP estimates inflow at $3.5B

A BILLION-PESO MARKET JACKED UP THE net inflow of hot money into the Philippines by nearly 900 percent to $3.5 billion as of July this year from $400.6 million last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The BSP said the surge in net foreign portfolio investments—which refers to local stocks, peso bonds and bank products—mirrored the influx of foreign money into developing Asia.

The BSP report listed six major banks, which act as custodians of foreign funds, showed that net portfolio inflow for July alone amounted to $976.07 million, up from a mere $9.76 million in June.

Last year, net portfolio inflow amounted to only $1,17.6 million in July and $116.31 million in June.

The BSP report also showed that total portfolio inflow amounted to $9.62 billion from January to July this year, exceeding the $6.1 billion in total outflow for the seven-month period.

Nearly 99 percent of the portfolio inflow went to shares listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Government securities, primarily Fixed Rate Treasury Notes or FXTRs, plus reserves in money market instruments and peso bank deposits made up the remainder.

Portfolio inflows are also called "hot money" due to their volatile nature.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board attributed the robust stock market to the country's improving macroeconomic fundamentals.

Money growth seen staying below 20%, BSP says

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS EXpects money supply to grow at below 20 percent in the next few months, paving the way for an eventual cut in interest rates.

It was rapid growth in liquidity fuels to an increase in prices of basic commodities as more money chases after the same amount of goods.

The rapid growth in recent months has prompted the BSP to implement measures to siphon excess money from the system.

"The measures are bearing fruit," the official said, citing the recent slowdown in the growth in broad money or domestic liquidity (M3) to 19.4 percent in June.

The latest figure represented a steady decline from the 21.1 percent annual M3 growth in May and the 28.3 percent rate in April.

"July M3, I think, is going to be not too much away from that," the official said.

Domestic liquidity or M3 is the broadest measure of money and is used to measure the entire supply of money within an economy.

It includes cash in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term securities funds it represents.

The official said it was possible to keep the money supply growth at below 20 percent.

"And once we have established this downtrend, that's the time to review monetary policy," the official said.

To establish a clear trend, the BSP usually needs a three-month observation period. With reports from Doris C. Dumlao

IN THIS ISSUE
- 60 years of RP-French camaraderie/C2
- From plain to pretty with plastic surgery/D1

LIFESTYLE

Lifestyle marketing is going for eco-friendly items and limited editions are the vogue again

LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

Why green is hot

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAzine hit the bull's eye when it went green last weekend, reflecting the environment awareness in today's style and fashion. Ecology or the need to save the planet is not only an advocacy where fashion is concerned. It is today's hottest style and, hopefully, is not just a passing trend.

The biggest proof of that is the "I'm not a plastic bag" tote by British designer Anya Hindmarch. As the words on the bag say, it is not a plastic bag, but a canvas tote which is reusable, and thus, eco-friendly. Its sales worldwide—from an initial $15 on retail to as much as $300 online—have shot up, giving rise to what Vogue now calls the "I'm not a plastic bag" phenomenon. If honestly, who'd ever think a shopping bag for your groceries and other stuff would be a phenomenon?

Expectedly it has also spawned rip-offs and an entire genre of chic, biodegradable and usable shopping bags. Suddenly a mundane plastic shopping bag is the "it" bag, with luxury brands and designers churning out their limited editions. The idea appeals to everyone who wants to say no to plastic bags.

There there's the designer duo singled out by Vogue—Alessandra Steffen and Lika Volkova...who make clothes out of "green" fabrics, from products such as soy and organic seaweed from various countries, from Peru to China. They're touting fashion that is sustainable and doesn't deplete the earth's resources.

Specialized

The save-the-planet fashion is not only part of the growing passion for the environment but is also an indication of a new direction in lifestyle marketing and niche fashion branding. Specialized products, specialized markets...that's where lifestyle has been going. The environment, for instance, is a specific agenda of a highly-concentrated and proactive market.

Fashion designers and brands are also going more than ever into limited editions. The more unique the commodity is, the higher the price it will fetch, as Women's Wear Daily (WWD) notes in this week's report. (So "I'm not a plastic bag" is one. WWD listed off a long list of brands entering the markets with their limited editions, among them are Topshop with its Kate Moss line, Puma and the luxury brands, jewelry and watches.

In Hong Kong, I saw for myself how the recently-opened H&M was taking it in with its Madonna line, which included suits for the corporate woman. (Steve thought I'd see the day when Madonna would be corporate-suited corporate woman. That's what having kids does—it makes even Madonna grow up!)

Why do people go for limited editions? As WWD concluded, they want uniqueness. What you have must be different from what the others have. And limited-edition pieces can be good investments. They can be resold at good rates, like collectibles.

Limited edition has become a "viable business model," according to WWD. The trend of unique products being good investments has led to the emergence of custom-made clothes, where and where people are going to designers they can afford, to have clothes made that are not seen on the racks or on people they run into at weekends and parties.

"The renaissance to made-to-measure, which many thought was limited to the years back also underscores the market's desire for uniqueness," wrote WWD.

So exercise is not dead. In fact people are going back to it in more affordable terms, the way they are going for limited editions. Indeed, while mass products continue to be big business, the era of niche marketing has made mass marketing ancient history. Even mass products must have the gloss of prestige in the eyes of their markets, thus the emergence of "massige" products.

In the limited-edition bandwagon, WWD cited as an example how, in Paris, Hermès sidelined a limited-edition handbag. Now, how do you explain that to your kid?

Good times

Over dinner last week, Malou Ecarma of El Cabalo was telling us how people these days must really be in the mood to spend and dine out.

Restaurateurs clerk like her apparently have been enjoying good business the past months.

The "good times" are back and they're written all over Sarandra, if we are to go by

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VALERIE and husband Art Jump Concibido, vice president of Diversified Industries Inc; Sanofi Pasteur country manager Jean-Jacques Bessou and wife Estelle; with Danielle Le Fouanier

BARBS Bermudez, Solaire Philippine Plaza Director of Marketing Ram Liburgos; International Monetary Fund resident representative Reza Baqir; and Manarate Andoy color Jose Felipe Pilar

EU Ambassador Alistair MacDonald; Honorary Consul of Belize Victor Ong; Linda Abbasi; US Ambassador Kristie Kenney; and Honorary Consul of Togo Inte Corea

WASHINGTON Sycip; Frances Lim of Silk Grocery; Christophe Lapierre; and Aria d' Montfort of Peugeot Opera Europa

AMBASSADOR Bernassola Taverna with son Ridley Taverna and Ch. Ceremonies Hoang

BAYANI Abigayan, Ginger Conejero and award-winning actor Cesar Montano

VICKY Constantin, Peninsula managing director Romain Bertrais and wife Claire

Toasting 14 Juillet and 60 years of RP-French ties

ATM Alice Guo-Kaw of Philippine Prof. Benito Pangonilan, Pepsy Morales-Aquino and retired Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban

ARMY Chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, Western Mindanao Command Chief Lt. Gen. Eugenio Cedo and Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Jr.

CAN-CAN girl

RESHUFFLED Diana Go and two-time tennis Bowers Tan-Chua; (right) Tennis Lilavo

JOEL Cruz of Alkansafe Preforms, Lou Lantin, Grace Cua and customer Davey de la Cuesta

BUSINESSMAN Jun Lozano

JUDE Posadas

WOMEN of substance: Jeanne Salgado, Cint Sahid, Marilou Poveda, Neva Lozano and Nenin Basilio

MEN'S Vision

LAWYER Raul V. and his wife Julia Villareal, Cristina Cuesta, Lydia Reyes with collaborator Rusty Pangan

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE ENAMEL are right as over 1,000 invitees, including guests, celebrated on Manila French Day (the 13th) 2007, dubbing it.

The French Embassy played host in recognition of the historic storming of the Bastille, which marked the first step of the people of France toward democracy.

Simply called 14 Juillet officially called Fête Nationale, the Fall of Bastille for example of the end of the monarchy and the beginning of the Republic.

This year's commemoration of 14 Juillet in Manila was even more special, says chefs, since France is also celebrating the 60th anniversary of its diplomatic relations with the Philippines.

Mot wouldn't believe my eyes as one watched tons of hot chefs from the two French restaurants and Manila society having a blast at the Harbor Garden Tent of the ever popular Subic Philippine Plaza.

Around 6 p.m. spirits exploded by making the rounds of the hall to exchange bits of wit with the guests. French Ambassador Gérard Chesnel and his wife, Madame Ming Chesnel, looked by unbounced on with a speech and a toast, "To the friendship between France and the Philippines." Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin represented the Philippine government while Argentine Ambassador Mario Schiff was acting dean of the diplomatic corps, pulsingly.

Then the food got into high gear exciting as glamorous Manila Bourgeoisie can get over the temptations resting in the already hot air-tin. Dancing later showed till two just my ears's bed time, chefs.

Elegance, dancing and an abundance of French wines, champagne, and excellent dishes prepared by Sofitel's top chefs to the delight of guests, is what Bastille Day is all about, mes chefs, n'est pas les as, di bala?

Benty's big day

Pickled and big-hearted county columnist Benty Vergara, known for his flamed birthday bashes, marked another milestone in his life, together with his long line of close pals led by philanthropist and party hostess Susie Lessor. Grand Mollie Abbott, Chit Sahid, Mariel Abaño, Karen Bissonnet and Ruby Ortiz.

Benty's well-wishers included Joel Cua, Pilang Tiongson, Tessie Rodrigo, Diana Bacalso, Mimi Veloria, Criselda Cuesta, and Bennet Libres.

The get-together was a Latin-Celtic night, palangges. The sprawling garden of the Lessors along Taft Avenue in downtown Manila was dressed into a brilliant Brazilian party scene, palangges.

The stage and dance floor had its share of wild

POSING Alain Lescornez's fiancée Rosario Argentina Ambassador Mario Schiff and French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Vitas Hagosa using Rainbow Emulsion

FRENCH Embassy's Coordinator for French Studies, Rita Lavaud and Third Secretary-Cedric Cilleul

FRENCH actress Bernadette Beja and director Michel Hassenteufel

BECKY Garcia of Dance Sport Council and her escort, Jerry McManara

JUN Boy Lessor

JOANNA Penalosa and Nina Serrano

ARCHITECT and designer Ana Recto, Anna Penalosa and Sandy Espinosa

POPULAR courtesy Mandy Orosa

GORGEOUS Yvonne de Leon with Queen of Malaysia Jael Hernandez

News from Vittorio Barba

The awesome talented designer first got the fashion industry attention with his Vittorio line at the Swiss Bed Boutique. Then since it, his love-searching soon shot because the go-to destination for special occasions outfits and accessories pieces.

Now, look out for Barba, soon to open at the Alabo Mall (around the 5. The store will carry the name and creations of one of our favorite sweet-to-girl-of-it designers, dubbings.

Mr. Barba describes his Greenbelt 5 store as "Filipino and It's mature and intellectual class."

"It feels like I've entered a family, or at least, I look at my shoes as such," Barba added.

For Barba's opening, he put up an exhibit and collaborated with artist and set sculptor Steph Peñalba, whose he met when she was studying sculpture in Barcelona.

"We spoke of each other's work, and it was then that we wanted to work and collaborate with each other one day," he said.

For the advance exhibit, Steph E. created black wire sculptures that were drawings against the off-white backdrop, a premiere for the week that Barba will showcase to his upcoming store, palangges.

"It had to be Ayala that should put their stamp on this great project," Barba said.

The youngster of the force added, "I've always positioned myself as left-of-center in the sense of fashion, "then check out Barba at Greenbelt 5, palangges.

CAMILLE Cruz Reyes

AYALA Malls senior division manager Myrna Fernandez

MR. WILLIAMS Carib operator of the year Vittorio Barba, Fernando Lhuillier and Jeanne Parreno

GREENBELT operations manager Ali Gonzales

German leather brand marks 120th year in style

JENELLE (S) Green

GERMAN BRAND BRAUN BUFFEL enters its 120th year of leather-crafting.

Born from the roots of upholstering and saddlery in the little idyllic town of Elze (just outside of Frankfurt) by founder Johann Braun, Braun Büffel is now available in various parts of Europe and the Asia Pacific with product lines extended to a good variety of leather bags and accessories for both the fashionably modern professional man as well as women.

For its 120th year, Braun Büffel has released Replenishment, an apt name for a throwback to Braun Buffel's A/E 2007 Collection. The collection is marked by the colors of spring that herald fresh and new life: from muted earthy tones of sand to blue hues of the ocean, summer comes of back to showy banana and flowery punch-in-pink and fresh green. Spring 2007 re-minds celebrates life in all its col-ors and emotions.

While the ladies collection flirts and woos to the multitude of colors and styles for every personality, the men's collection exclaims in a sleek matte look to shine-void black or dark aquamarine suits for bags and minimal velocity cases—all coming with the same reinforcement belt for life and the season.

Visit Braun Büffel boutiques at The Podium, SM Mall of Asia, and Rustan's Department Store.

Log on to www.braunbuffel.com.ph.

CLEMON (S) Black

D-LINKIN Pink

Reinvented brand with an urban attitude

To cater to a young market, Shoe Inn Exchange has reinvented itself as ESS, focusing on a T-shirt collection that is colorful, more edgy and with a more urban attitude. The retailer even seeks to simplify the brand, from its design offering to visual merchandising.

ESS started out as Shoe Inn when it was first introduced in the Philippines by Goodone Hong Kong. The brand has been in existence since 1999 and has branched out to Australia and the Middle East. It offers quality and stylish casual wear in true Goodone fashion at competitive prices.

ESS shops are in Trinoma Mall in North Edsa, Quezon City, and Glorietta Mall in Makati, and will soon open at SM Megamall.

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MEN'S jewelry by Michelle features organic designs inspired by nature, rattlesnakes and pre-colonial Philippine jewelry.

Silver lining in men's fashion

MICHELLE GOTTA AND JEWELLERY has been making jewelry and accessories for men long before international became part of extreme's fashion vocabulary.

Established in 1990, Michelle harnesses the Filipino's innate creativity and talent in producing products with world-class craftsmanship that meet international product standards.

Michelle has been offering men's jewelry as part of its collection from the beginning, even though Filipino men in the past were not inclined to make jewelry part of their personal style.

But Alexandra Fourmann, Michelle's marketing manager, said Filipinos were slowly developing a liking for jewelry.

This year, Michelle presented a new collection of men's sterling silver jewelry at the 2007 Hong Kong International Jewellery Show. The collection features organic designs inspired by nature, rattlesnakes and pre-colonial Philippine jewelry.

Some pieces in the collection are reversible enough to be worn either as necklaces or bracelets.

Silver proves for a more finer and cool mens pieces to be worn. Michelle also offers gift items like letter openers, bookmarks, necklaces, leather-framed photo frames, chopsticks rests and sculptured art pieces with natural designs.

Michelle showrooms and shops are at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City; Greenhills Jewellery Center, San Juan; and Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. Michelle is also available at Rustan's Department Store in Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City; Robinson's Ermita, Manila; and Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

GOINGS ON

Farrales scholarship search

RESUMPTION FOR APPLICATIONS. The 29th batch search for scholarship of designers and dressmakers. Applications forms will be available at Bee Farrales Office, 1902 M. Adriatico, Malate, Manila, call 5210421 or at 0.M Fashion School, 2316 Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo), Makati, call 4913980.

KIP AUGUST. Shangri-La Plaza welcomes August with a showcase of talent, technology and art. Catch the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra's repertoire of modern pop and classical pieces at 7 p.m., today, at 2/L Grand Atrium. Other activities are Youth Fashion Movement, 6 p.m., Aug. 10, RoboFiesta!, Aug. 11-20, acoustic performances by Jullianne and Miguel Rodella, 1 p.m., Aug. 11; cocktail by Fortissimo by Kristhian, Aug. 11-18, at 4/L, Shaw Boulevard Walkway. Shows and Books Fair Bet Youth Getting Edition, Aug. 9-12, Fashion Gadget walking exhibit, Aug. 11-26. Call 6302551 or visit www.shangrila.com.

BRIDAL FAIR. Grand Plaza Galleria Manila will be staging its annual bridal fair on Aug. 11 and 12. "Weddings For All Seasons" has all bridal and fiesta suppliers who will showcase their latest innovations and products. It will also feature three fashion shows. Cajun Boulevard is on Saturday evening. Visaya Reviews, the Young Fashion Designers Group on Sunday afternoon and Regine Tolentino's bridal line with guest celebrity models as an encore on Sunday evening.

MEET AND GREET – "LAMPARA." Fort's Up attractions Cody Maverick and the Stone Monkey Suckers will be exclusively seen starting Aug. 12 in a series of meet and greet and other events at Robinsons Galleria Manila's ground lobby. The characters will also be strolling Robinsons Place Manila on Aug. 17; Robinsons Metropolitan, Aug. 18; and Robinsons Place Bacoor, Aug. 26. Shows will also feature Surfing Stone from the Stone Monkey Surfers Club, karate tattooing and hair-braiding. Shoppers must register at 10/L in, to join in the event and be able to participate in the Surfing Camp in Zambales up to June 09 by the Stone Monkey Surfing Club. Call 8836158, loc. 740, 742 or 127.

CONFIDENCE. The Breathe Conference dubbed "Bringing Respiratory and Environmental Awareness Through Health Education" is set on Aug. 13-15 at the Pedro Theatre, UP. The conference aims to increase awareness on cardiopulmonary health issues and implementation of research concerns. The conference will highlight the Buteyko Breathing Method, a technique first developed by Russian respiratory physician Dr. Konstantin Buteyko. Call 9266031 or 9818-4266866.

CUMAMELA SANTOS-OCAMPO
A geometric tan here natural dive response predoctoric Dr. Portia Santos-Ocampo, who recently celebrated her birthday. Hilaire requirement. "Portia Santos-Ocampo" and a prompt, were presented to her during her birthday celebration at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Beside Ocampo is University of the Philippines specialist Dr. Anastasia Revuso.

REUNION. The Lopez Provincial High School Class of 1967 will celebrate its 40th homecoming on Aug. 18 at the Lopez Sunkine Credit Cooperative, Yagante Street, Lopez, QC. Call 09177268295, 09178184142, 09184348652, 09189669652 and 09117000088.

BOOK FAIR. The 28th Manila International Book Fair is set on Aug. 29-Sept. 2 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, corner Roxas Boulevard, Pasay. Call 8900881 or 8900892 e-mail booksfair@mailmanila.com.

CANDLESTICK DESIGN CONTEST. Kindergarten has been held the Candles' Design Contest for kids 14 years old and below. This year's theme is "Ubas." Entries should be received by Aug. 25 at Kindergarten, 3/F, Silver City Mall, Fronteras Drive, Julia Vargas cor. E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Pasig. Include your name, age, address, contact number and e-mail address. Winning design will be paid in the 10,000 rates for Kindergarten's The Big Baby Special Edition Calendar to be distributed to schools to raise funds for NFC-Bukang Bayani Kapangan Village, a Gil-Bukang Bayani community in Pasig. Visit www.kindergarten.com/bigbaby.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE. The Department of Pediatrics, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines and CHILD Foundation Inc. will hold its 2007 postgraduate course "Subspecialty Basics in General Pediatrics" on Sept. 10-13, at the Century Park Hotel. The course aims to give patients, basic and general practitioners basic, state-of-the-art skills in the childhood diseases. Call 5263860 or 5218430 locals 3701 or 2707.

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COMPAQ

Why green . . .

from page 61

proof. Even on weekdays, you must wait in for crowd in the restaurants, starting with our favorite 40s-50 cuisine. Abe is the success story of Sarmiento—a franchise once have energized the "retired" Larry Gray to turn his idyllic blogging. Pampanga weekend home into a spa destination. (So I've learned not to believe people when they say they're retiring.)

Melissa and Lorna Cooper were among one of the newly opened Manila at Sarmiento, the cross of three good friend Shannon Wiens (which was why Shannon's sister-in-law Bladen was also there). Manson owns the house cooked dishes her friends have come to love (she and her husband can also the town behind Blue Kitchen).

That night was your town Lorna and Bladen had Cajun roasted chicken and pork, and the yummy desserts. Every morsel was worth the digression from Lent.

Billy's corner

A good dining place to also have dessert, a good crowd in Alabang—Billy King's Friends Corner, where no serenity (lined with the Brownie and Hiraya Gallery's Still Dot.

"Sweetheaven" don't have to seem the like for buttery continental cuisine. Here we can have the best pizza appetizer, the duck confit, all the noodle and the risotto that Billy got known for. Plus—by far is an absolutely scrumptious dessert. To observe calorie fashion like us, who are known as a "chocoholic pilgrimage," this one's a real find.

Contributing Editor
Rio Francisco-Prieto

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chuis Bunyi Formoso

BEAUTY

A second look at plastic surgery

It's really not about getting something new, but enhancing or fixing a certain feature

Rio Francisco-Prieto

SINCE I AM STUCK IN the house a lot these days, I have discovered new shows on television that I am actually starting to enjoy.

One of my new favorites is Discovery Home and Health's "Plastic Surgery Before and After."

I was never really open to plastic surgery. So, a better statement would be, I was never brave enough to do it. But since I've been watching the shows so often, and seeing how much it changes the quality of people's lives, I'm now beginning to see the procedure in a different light.

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Svenson saved my hair!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes
Interior Designer
For Tessa Prieto-Valdes, hair isn't just her crowning glory. It's her fashion accessory. "I do a lot of things to my hair," she says. "I even make sure my hair matches my outfit! I do a lot of coloring and styling so I know I have to make extra effort to keep it healthy. I've tried lots of shampoos and treatments, but they were only temporary solutions. Then I discovered the Svenson treatments, which feel like they enter the scalp and actively heal it. My hair's roots thicker, full of volume and so much healthier! I'm seriously satisfied with the results! Svenson saved my hair from damage!"
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A second look at plastic surgery

From page D1

Most men don't understand plastic surgery. When I talk to my husband about who has had what done, he thinks I'm off so often to him. He thinks I take it lightly because of the industry I am in. Maybe there is some truth to that, but honestly I want him to be a little more open-minded about it.

When I was shy for insurance, I may want to have botox. I know I have a long way to go before that date, but I want to be able to talk to him about it without pulling cards and all sorts of issues. I mean, I've not said I'm going to have it for sure, but I want that option to be open.

But since he also ends up searching what I watch, and since I watch a lot of plastic-surgery shows, I think the idea doesn't seem fun so much as it does horrific. There is very good hip to keep in mind, people. If your spouse is not open to something, educate him to shows with real people in them.

The shows are more realistic and, unsurprisingly, the results aren't too drastic, which is really good. I'd thought everyone who had something done would end up looking all oddly, but what I've learned is that, if you have a good doctor the change should be subtle.

Especially not always getting something new, but embracing as being a woman is human.

Going to someone reputable is very important, because surgery should never be taken lightly. Also, it would be unbelievable to go to a psychologist first, because no matter how small you think the surgery would be, you'd have to live with it every day afterwards. And yes, there is always room for error.

Beverly Hills d'lish

The biggest cosmetic makeover in the country was the recent switch for "Miss Ogle Mom," sponsored by Beverly Hills Cosmetic Surgery and Med Institute. Three finalists have been unveiled after more than a decade of aesthetic enhancements.

The first time I had heard about the contest, I found it a little bit too gimmicky for a new company that it has grown our young. Since the Beverly Institute has respectable doctors, its first project has become a success.

The three lucky winners of life-changing makeovers are Lisa Velasquez, Jocelyn Bernal and Lysia Ramos. These girls now look at least five years younger and exude more confidence.

According to Beverly Hills d'lish CEO Jocelyn Bernal, the transformation was not "the "tip of a whole new life that's ahead for these girls."

"They have a whole world of opportunity waiting them and the team of doctors at Beverly Hills is so proud of each of them, because we all know that nobody can speak of the conquest much better than those who have experienced what one does can do," he added.

The girls underwent a series of beauty treatments and surgeries, including breast augmentation, dermabrasion of face and dental procedures after the public voted for them through text messages as Miss Ogle's Top 3. Then, a group of judges chose the winner, Velasquez, who's now a Beverly Hills hottest endorser.

Beverly Hills d'lish is at 11 E 6750 Building, 6750 Santa Ave., Makati. Call 8898888 or 8896753.

LISA Ramos

JOCELYN Bernal

LYSIA

BEFORE

Homebody's heaven

IF YOU AGREED WITH MY column last week that just going to one place relieves you can pay bills, have meetings, run errands in and attend to beauty needs under one roof and you stressful, you would also agree that home-service treatment is the best!

Unlike haircuts, color and eyebrow corrections, some facials require weekly maintenance. Top on the list are manicures, pedicures and massages.

Nails at Home

Most of my friends, relatives and their friends spoke about Nail Art Home being one of the very first and best they have tried.

In fact...five of them home-service nail salons were their in-house choice who made their own after studying their business in customers. They have two offices, one in Makati and one in Ortigas.

The nail pros they have boundaries so your village may not be covered. Their manicure (P139), pedicure (P156) and foot spa (P295) are even more reasonably priced than some salons.

MAKEOVER 911
Alexp Salas

There is a 500 charge if you want nail polish with your manicure and pedicure, and P50 for change polish only.

Aside from these, the more in demand treatment is the 30-minute hand-and-foot manicure-pedicure massage.

Tipsiguys encouraged is the girls do not get commission from the fee. E-mail nailsathome@gmail.com to get the full menu of services. Call 7360816/4497, 09053630595 or 0922.8201170. It is open 8 a.m.-11 p.m.

Microdermabrasion

For this, I will go to a skin clinic. Say something always gets in the way of an emergency. The treatment diminishes pore size, regulates skin secretion, removes dry flaking spots, tones out dead skin to reveal new smooth and baby-soft skin, helps diminish scars from freckles and pimples, fights other skin concerns and even the need for make-up. Overall, it helps perfect your natural beauty.

Use the at-home kits when traveling. Juice Power Peels diminish fine lines and a big overnight, freckles or skin clinics are booked, you have access or driver, or you're simply too lazy or busy to go out.

There are two brands I have recently tried and which I encouraged:

1. Dermalogica's Microdyn Abrasion Cream and Brush. Use once a week in night after cleansing and toning (with your own products) designed for your skin type or concern. Massage in circles then moving up on the cheeks, forehead and nose. Leave on no longer than three to five minutes. Call 8889034.

2. Skinceuticals Microdermabrasion Dead Facial Care System. This is more complicated as it includes sponges, a tissue, two tubes of aluminum oxide crystal grains, two pots of cream and a hydrating cream.

Option 1 is for those in a rush while Option 2 is closer to the actual clinic treatment so you actually have close to the same equipment they have.

Use in the evenings to give skin time to rest and recovery so it won't be too shocked when exposed to the sun. The results are instant, but you have to use it religiously for best results. Call 8889034.

Vanishing double-sided mirror

One side is the normal magnifying one and the flip side is magnified eight times bigger. This is my secret weapon for anticipating fine lines, brown spots and pores. Before they become visible to the naked eye I watch out for them in my mirror and treat them accordingly.

This practice is efficient, because one should know exactly where to apply concealer and what areas need extra pressed powder or thick foundation, so one could walk out into the world seamlessly perfect and appear makeup-free.

I use the regular side to tweeze my hair and makeup's need of heel to the common hysterics. The lighting mimics the effect of natural sunlight so you will be able to correctly apply makeup for what you will look like outdoors.

For the Vanishmore Mirror and Skinceuticals Micropolish, call 8381631/32.

Tip: I got my mirror at S&S Personnel and my Microdermabrasion at Health Express Shoemart, but I am sure there are other places where they are available.

E-mail the author at trinnysalas@yahoo.com.

HOMEDICS microdermabrasion kit

VANITIMAGIC magnifying mirror

Shampoo raffle is back

SUNSILK ANNOUNCES THE return of the Search Great Hair Days pageant.

Look for Sunsilk sachets with the Search Great Hair Days logo. Inside the winning packs are prizes that can be claimed from Sunsilk.

Details of the promo are in posters. You may also call 8893000 (in Metro Manila) or 1-800-10-886-7258 (outside Metro Manila). Winners can also call these numbers to claim their prizes.

Prizes include freebies from Starr, Goldilocks, McDonald's, Shakeella, Nescafe, Lemondo, National Bookstore, All About Scrapbooking, Fitness First, David's Salon.

Announcement: Grandprize winner will receive P500,000 worth makeover from Mane, hosted new Bonita Cruz and P800,000 shopping spree.

Get Blonde is last year's grand prize winner of a Hong Kong.

"After I had verified with Sunsilk that I had won it, so I kept it a secret because I was too stunned to disbelief," she said. "I told my father only when all the details were given to me. He was the one who picked up the tab. We had a big family celebration when the car was released."

Meanwhile, 21-year-old Yvonne Santonera went on to the new contest by Kimber Sunsilk and finds finalists.

"When I posted off the video, I thought that it was just plain fidgets to a finalist and finalist contests, so it didn't really rank in yet," she said. "But when I found out a few days after that it was actually an exclusive contest for my family and friends, I was shocked!"

In preparation for the contest, Sunsilk gave Santonera money to shop for clothes. She chose an entire wardrobe from Cotton On Kids and a pair of shoes from Celine.

She also had her own photo shoot, with the photos being displayed at Trinoma in Greenhills during the contest. She was joined by 40 of her kin and friends for the night.

LAST year's Sunsilk Great Hair Day Search Girl is Bonita Pachecoman Yvonne Santonera (center) with Kitchie Nadal and Barbie Almalbis

How to wear fake lashes

Text and makeup by
Beatriz Chua
Contributor

I LOVE WEARING FALSE lashes. I believe they are the best alternative if you want fuller lashes. I usually use full band lashes whenever I do shoots, because they are the easiest to apply.

But for personal use, individual lashes are my preference, because they are the most natural-looking and are like lash extensions. You can use black or brown, but among the two colors is ideal.

Have them professionally trimmed before you use them. Or you can trim them yourself using eyebrow scissors. Do your own lashes as your guide. Fake lashes should be the same length as your natural lashes.

1. Before attaching the fake lashes, curl your lashes first and line your eyes with a dark brown or black pencil. This will help control the lash event.

2. Equip yourself with your supplies: eyebrow scissors to trim, tweezers to apply the lashes and the glue.

3. Put a drop of lash glue on a hand mirror (the outside of the case holding the lashes is perfect) and let it dry for a minute.

4. Hold the lash tip with tweezers and dip the root in the glue. Give it a few seconds to dry a little.

5. Starting at the outer corner, nudge the glued lash between your natural lashes and hold it in place for a few seconds. A couple of clusters at the outer corners of the upper lashes are usually enough, but you can also use them to fill in any sparse areas.

6. For the most natural effect, do not glue on more than five clusters on each eye and avoid placing the lashes on the inner corners.

7. Once the lashes are set, apply eyeshadow and mascara to blend the lashes with your natural lashes.

8. To remove lashes, use an oil-based makeup remover. Put a dab of the makeup remover on a cotton swab and gently dab at the base of the lashes. This will soften the glue. Gently pull off lashes and the remaining glue. Once the false lashes are removed, wet your lashes with water to remove traces of from the makeup remover.

It is quite hard to find individual lashes here in the Philippines. What I normally do is use a full band lash and cut it and trim it to come up with individuals of lashes. Try buying cheap ones first for your practice trimming. FBC and Shoemart stores sell false lashes for only P250 a pair.

But if you really find it hard to attach the false lashes yourself, there are beauty centers that can help you do it. Or if you find it tiresome and tedious, another alternative is to have lash extensions. It is basically the same application; the only difference is the glue to be used.

Lash extensions usually last for 2-3 months depending on how careful you are with them

Lash extensions usually last for two to three months depending on how careful you are with them. I've tried them on many times, and I must say that they're worth all the pain (the adhesive used is quite strong and would really make you tear up) and the hassle (I can't wash my face the second way). I have to start with my cheeks first, then the forehead, avoiding the eye area).

I could go on with the timelines, but bottom line is, I love using lash extensions. I don't mind doing so again. You can even curl them for added effect, but no more eyelash curlers.

My lash extensions lasted for almost three months. Take it from me: Let your lashes rest for a few months before re-applying again.

The best eyelash extension place for me is Mikaela Salon in The Fort (tel. 8430697), which offers the most natural-looking lashes. Be prepared to shell out some cash, though, because they're a little pricey. But, hey, beauty does not come cheap, right?

If the end result is your looking beautiful and sexy every morning when you wake up...even without makeup—then it's all worth it.

E-mail to_maybelline_ryt@yahoo.com

Dazzle with red lips

LOVELY RED IS A NEW addition to Nivea's range of lip glosses that give dazzling brilliance to your lips, plus all the moisturizers you can't live without. Its non-sticky formula guarantees that your lips won't feel heavy throughout the day.

Lovely Red combines yummy flavors with top notes of blackcurrant, green plum, raspberry, and strawberry and middle notes of plum, peach and strawberry and vanilla at the base.

Nivea Lip Gloss&Tint is now available in department stores nationwide.

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ARTDECO's Bronze Era Collection has caramel-colored shades perfect for summer and pampered beach addicts.

Makeup art

By Bianca Consunji

ANY MAKEUP artist will tell you: applying makeup is an art. Just like courtroom oral pointing, there's a lot of blending, contouring and color matching in doing makeup. Plus, there's the challenge of having to make each person look beautiful with various powders, creams and liquids, regardless of how he or she initially looks.

Just as reputable artists won't use poorer materials (such as low-grade watercolors and pastels) to do their works of art, many of the industry's top professionals refuse to settle for just-any-brand of makeup.

Makeup pros and neophytes alike will be glad to know that Artdeco, a popular brand of cosmetics from Germany, was recently launched in Rustan's Department Store. The brand, founded by Helmut Brandt in 1985, is known for its wide range of products and simple, but striking makeup colors.

One thing that sets Artdeco apart from other cosmetic brands is its use of refillable pans for its products, instead of compelling customers to repeatedly pay for compacts that will be thrown away after the product is used up. Additional fees for service of simple buying refills, which significantly reduces the cost of the product.

The magnetized compacts allow customers to customize their compacts, so if you want to emphasize a particular color of eyeshadow or blush to update your makeup look, you can pop out the old color and insert a new one into place.

The brand also introduced two new collections during its launch—the Bronze Era Collection, a line of caramel-colored shades that are perfect for summer and pampered beach addicts, and the New Glass Couture Collection, an elegant lineup of smoky colors laced with glitter, iridescent hues and lustrous sheens.

The Bronze Era Collection contains three key products: a Bronzing Highlighter compact, a neutral powder compact, and a powder brush filled with shimmery golden powder. The Glass Couture Collection is more complicated, with an eye palette, glitter liner, three shades of lipstick, lipstick, shimmer powder, and a highlighting compact included in the lineup.

Top makeup artist Kathy Calderon was tapped to be the official makeup artist and spokesperson for Artdeco. Calderon, whose touch has graced glossy magazines such as Cosmopolitan, FHM and Marie Claire, as well as numerous billboards around the metro, said: "I'm proud to represent Artdeco. There's so much taking the quality of its products, that brand is all about delivering results, with no frills at all. You get what you see for."

E-mail the author at bianca.consunji@yahoo.com

"Zunic took one inch off my waist in 45 minutes!"

—Authentic customer statement, 27 March 2007 (not a paid endorsement)

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Most of the slimming technology still used today was pioneered in the last century. This was a long time before research groups at NASA and the Mayo Clinic discovered newer, more technologically-advanced ways to remove unwanted fat quickly, easily, and safely.

In the Philippines, only Zunic has the methodology that actively applies those new technologies, and the proven expertise to deliver results. So that what could take weeks or months using other slimming methods happens quicker and more comfortably at Zunic.

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FASHION

LIFESTYLE

Metro magazine, Shu Uemura, Motorola and Globe invite all creative folks to join a competition dedicated to propelling art beyond art's sake

FRENCH COUTURIER PAUL Poiret was gifted with groundbreaking vision and innovative ideas. The "King of Fashion" was most known for his reinvention of various silhouettes such as the sack dress that liberated women from the dreaded corset of pre-World War I. He was also renowned for his use of shocking color, oriental influence, and exotic references (the Ballet Russes, for one) in home couture.

Apples Alexis-Sudhwani

Poiret is not just some magnificent relic from fashion's recycling history. Due to his vision and talents, his works continue to influence contemporary designs and designers. In fact, in these pages you'll find local designer Rajo Laurel's luxurious Paul Poiret-inspired collection.

What's the point of bringing up Poiret and his outmoded accomplishments, you may ask? Well, it's to inspire visionaries out there to harness and share their talents via the 2007 Breakthrough Design Art Competition.

Together with Metro magazine, Shu Uemura, Motorola and Globe invite all artists to Love Art, Live Art and Make Art in a competition that is dedicated to propelling art

TRAVEL E2

Global mix
Godiva Rose in cream jersey with gold pullover beading; tan blouse; denim and wrap collar, P1,195; vintage brocade tulip skirt, P3,295; D'Or The House of Laurel cuzbah clamp bracelet

Shanghai warrior

RAZR sharp

Thin-novation

From page E1

MING chose had just recently signed on for a movie premiere. The Motorola brand ambassador was even called on stage to share her own experiences with the RAZR2. "The RAZR2 is sure to not only be a stunning piece of art inside—powerful, elegant but also very stylish."

The online and media representatives from all over Asia had the pleasure of interacting last Oktoberfest-Bavaria, Motorola's VP of marketing for the Asia-Pacific region, "Motorola once again redefines the cell phone," he says. "People are hungry for the next iconic feature phone, and RAZR2 delivers the ultimate mobile experience in a slim, strong, and smart body that people will want to own, and others will envy!"

And what's not to envy? Ultra-thin, beautiful and smart to a whip. If this were a recession, don't be the envy of all.

The iconic RAZR2 is available in silver V8 (GSM), mahogany V9 (3G), and dark pearl gray RAZR2 V6m (tri-mode).

E-mail the author at gbellosillo@inquirer.com.ph

Gold standard
Jacinta Tana with ruffled taffeta organza silk dress worn with brocade vest on sleeves and hem. P5,995

All in the details
Blue Dress in petroleum color with sculpted epaulets, beaded gown gear ribbon vest on the shoulder and tucked sleeves. P5,195

Stand up for art!

From page E1

beyond art's realm.

In an entertainment to support artists with the same ground-breaking vision and innovative ideas, Blue Moon Globe Moves gives local talents a chance to break through into the beauty, telecommunications and media industries.

Blue Moon Globe Moves has spectacularly achieved its task through its search for a beauty titlewide does incorporate beauty, technology and art. This competition, the first of its kind in the nation in 2007, is the only one of its kind, offering breakthrough prizes to the winning entrant.

We at Inquirer Fashion laud the people behind the worthy endeavor. So, with the same goals of elevating and supporting the local art design scene, we encourage all artists out there to stand up and be recognized.

WHO CAN JOIN

Male or female, 18 years and above, amateur and professional artists, graphic designers, painters or anyone who would like to show their expression of the associated brands through a piece of artwork. Must be residing in the Philippines.

HOW TO JOIN

Submit creative through email (soft) or the website.

1. Through email

- Mail an artistic entries to 2007 Break-through Design Art Competition c/o Ma Ocampo, 23/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue corner Poveda St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605, Philippines.
- If they should be on A4 sized sheet of paper or board.

2. Through website

- Log on to http://breakthroughdesign.com.ph/register and upload entry.
- If any entry let to digital file, JPEG or TIFF format.

Each contestant may submit as many entries as he or she likes.

Designs can be done by hand or digitally drawn.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

All artworks submitted must express the following:

Theme: Breakthrough

Design Color Scheme: Predominantly black and blue

Medium: they can use a mix of the following: digital, photo, paint, sculpture

DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION: Aug. 31, 2007

For more information, log on to http://breakthroughdesign.com.ph.

E-mail the author at gbellosillo@inquirer.com.ph

Photography: Jake Navarro
Styling: Made-to-D: Ari Gonzales
Model: Gianna Taglo
Makeup Code: Garnets of Ilin Ximena
Hair: Raymund Santiago of L'Oreal Professionnel
Clothes: Raja Laoyan
Shot on location at the Subic Philippine Plaza

Kristin Davis talks about Motorola RAZR2 and "Sex and the City" movie

Mr. Ian Chapman Walsh, VP for Marketing Rob Pick with "Sex and the City's" Kristin Davis

What do you think of the new RAZR2?
I think it's beautiful. I have the old RAZR and the new RAZR2 is almost like a piece of jewelry regardless of it being a cellular phone. There are a lot of elements to it and I am really beautifully done. I'm so happy to see it's curved. I think I'm the only one in the world that's with it... for now, so that means my wedding.

I think all elements or things that we have in our life is a statement of who we are and this is going that I want celebrities that I aforesaid something being an expression of me.

It's hard to say?
No, not at all. It's really user-friendly. Even another theory to first RAZR, which is kind of making because it's so small unbelievably with the extra features. It's not going to... I'll be by no one really. I also not sure to. An that I already have songs on it and my entire song is in my ring tone.

What's your ring tone?
It is Fergie's "Big Girls Don't Cry."

What are your personal requirements when you select a phone?
I like the flip phone (insert cheesy style pun) because I find like people can hear you better because the mic is near the mouth. The other cool thing about this new phone is the Crystal Talk, it's like a filter. The way it works is that for example you are in bed and you can't hear the person you're talking to on the other line, the software kicks in and it makes sure you don't have to do anything and you can hear the person on the other line clearer. I'm very excited about that!

Secondly, I want it to be pretty and I don't want it to look a chunky phone. I want something that is pure beauty. I also don't want obnoxious accessories exactly like camo and that you can't make out your ears. I don't know, I think it's kind of ridiculous or something. I like the fact that it's seamless.

How many phones do you have?
I have three Motorola phones. I now have two RAZR2 and another Motorola phone that came with my SIDU cue.

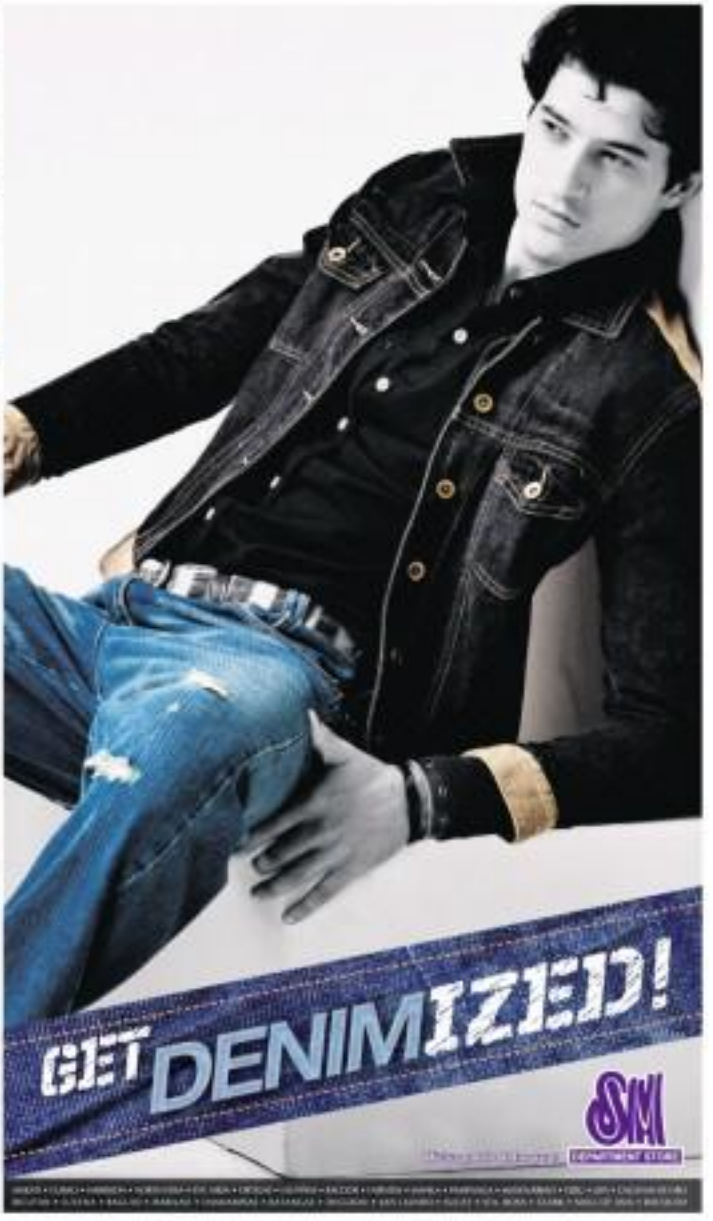
Is there any rumored project that you are allied about?
[Laughs] Interesting. I'm excited that we are doing "Sex and the City" movie. We haven't started shooting but it will be out in 2008.

Do you think this will play a part in the movie?
You guys! That's the second time somebody asked me that question [laughs]. I think obviously they should!

My character Charlotte has a Motorola phone. For the fan, what was every year ago, so I see no reason why it should not. I'll do my best.

Kris Moto
Nikki Mega Magazine), Zo Agulo (Cosmopolitan Online), the author, Colors Lopez (T Style) and Gerard (Business Mirror)

Asian Moto
Regional Motorola Marketing Team: Zol (Malaysia), (Australia), Yanay (Indonesia), Prosecs (Singapore) Lacaya (Philippines)



Chinese celebs
From left: Li Kaishi, Wang Xiaoning, Hu Jianbing, Wang Shengli, and Zhang Yuanchong

SEA celebs
From left: Emcee Diana, TV host, Miss Singapore Universe 2005 and recognized member of parliament Chay Wai; AXN TV officer host Nga Thanh Van, actress/singer Nga Thanh Ha, film director Zin Ho Yen, lead female role in "The Quiet American"

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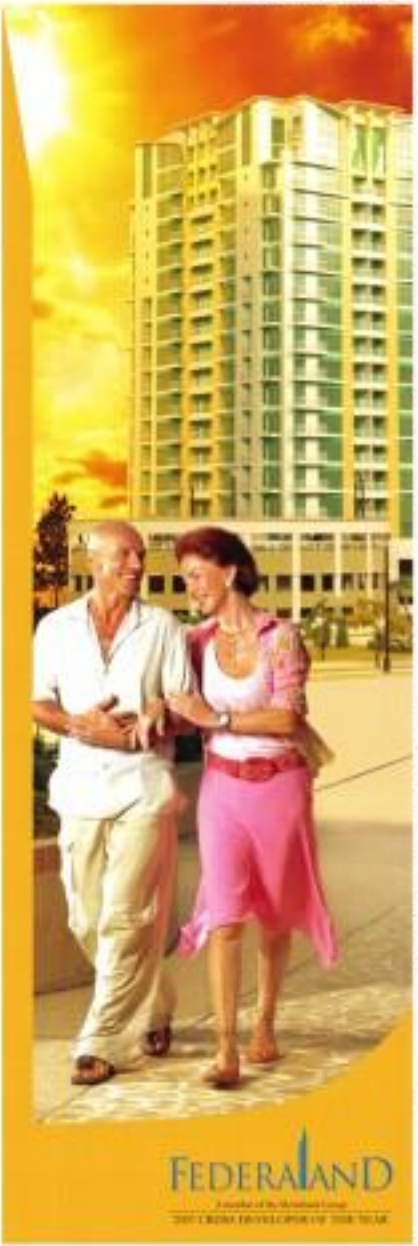


FEDERALAND

The latest Motorola RAZR2 is the supermodel of cell phones

THEY MAY BE BANNING anything "too-thin" on the carnivales of Spain and Italy, but there is no such understanding since it may for the gadgets on a techie's wish list. In these technology times, phones have become the "It" accessories for the fashionable set. Laptops, iPods, and cell phones have taken up the fashion lifestyle that their human counterparts had struggled to the past. Most recently, the supermodel of phones has shed off even more inches and is even more glamorous than ever!

Mabuhay!

Jenni Eggerisso

Like a true fashion icon, the Motorola RAZR2 was introduced as a super trendy affair at the Shanghai Pudong RG Carlton Hotel. It was straight out of a movie scene feature as the luminous rooftop pools were transformed into a futuristic Hollywood soiree. The setting was clean inspired by the phone's design. Like the mirrory finish of the sleek slim RAZR2, the room's surface would change into glitters, shimmering silver.

Since design has always been an essential part of Motorola's vision, the effect was highlighted by an exhibition of the original concept—sketches created by the designers of RAZR2 handset. These sketches were beautifully detailed renderings that showed what was in the minds of the RAZR2 designers and the challenges that they faced and subsequently overcame as the phone progressed from frames to reality. The final product is absolutely a work of art, with no other phones remove than the original RAZR that became known as the world's best-selling fashion phone.

But more than just a beautiful exterior, the RAZR2 goes beyond form by raising functionality to the next level. It's packed with ultra-cutting edge features, like the groundbreaking CrystalTalk technology: this means when you take a call in a noisy environment, it automatically adjusts audio levels for super clear reception! Here's that for a chat-friendly cell phone?

Asian celebrities graced the event, including famous Chinese and Taiwanese actors, and former Miss Singapore Denise Chua and AXN TV's Heidi Isvi. Chay Wai, the most sought-after celebrity guest of the night was Kristin Irwin, also known as Charlotte York of "Sex and the City." Here was a timely visit since the hit

TURN TO

This is it.
The new RAZR2

LIFESTYLE

Tell us your feedback

Members of Manila's fashion elite lift ban on

black

Welcome black – once again, fashionable Manila can indulge in the renewed easy elegance of the classic hue without worrying about the dreaded shoulder snowstorm.

This was the reason behind the "Ban Black Manifesto" issued by the top names in the fashion industry calling on every member of fashionable Manila to temporarily ban any black clothing. Stylists, designers and fashion enthusiasts with snow in sight are to sign a manifesto declaring a ban on Black until such time that a clear solution to the problem is given.

While the condition is not life threatening, style mavens across the metro know that nothing could ruin a carefully orchestrated outfit more than dandruff. No matter how slimming and flattering, black loses its allure once the telltale sprinkling of white flakes graces your shoulders, which, by the way, can imply anything from bad hygiene to chemicological problems. The scalp condition may be annoying and embarrassing, but if you have a penchant for wearing black, it highlights your unhealthy scalp condition.

Fortunately, just when fashionistas thought their black wardrobe wouldn't fade in the back of closets any longer, Clear Anti-Dandruff shampoo paves the way for the timeless color to make a glorious comeback into the fashion scene celebrated in true style with a runway show featuring the fashion sensibilities of Patricia Hung, Viktor Arsov, Ivan Escalona and Pury Quimson.

The recent launch of the even-runway new anti-dandruff solution offers its users not only a wealth the only but to wash away stubborn flakes and keep scalp and strands healthy as well. With this innovation in dandruff treatment and prevention and bringing the only anti-dandruff shampoo endorsed by the International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology, the Philippines may soon see say goodbye to black.

Clear the runway for fashionable Manila's finest

'With Clear's revolutionary ingredient, Zinc Vitamol, local fashion's arch-nemesis dandruff may never have to end their affair with the little black dress again'

Style mavens don the color black as the launch of Clear Anti-Dandruff Shampoo.

Why anyone would let dandruff get in the way of donning the black collection of Manila's fashion elite at Clear's Black Fashion Show is beyond explanation.

Certified fashionistas gathered at the Renaissance Makati Hotel, Manila on July 17, 2007 knew what is a fashionista could be – the only reason why we have to put an end to dandruff.

Patricia K. Hung opened the show with an 80's inspired collection. The girls' flowing black dresses were highlighted by luminescent neon yellow stockings, paired with stilettos, giving it the necessary touch of drama. While for the guys, Hung explored the dilliterate end of the spectrum – with tight shirts and jeans.

Next on the catwalk is someone who knows a thing or two about jeans, Ian Culeza of Viktor Arov's collection won an edgy an hot street fashion. ("A good pair of jeans would give you head.") Rock and roll was the order of the day for Ian's collection. His fitted trousers were paired with perfect pairs of, in statement shirts with witty slogans like "Tired of Flakes? Keep it Clear" and "Black is Back. Deal the way".

Ivan Escalona's neo-gothic collection definitely went away from the standard fun and flirty designs.

His outfits are thought-provoking and strategically placed lace evoked romance and sensuality without being vulgar, but, don't expect to see a shred of color in this collection. The office-dressed but fashion-forward women galore for rush hour! oozes and that one thing that we thought she will never reach – black.

An eclectic mix of new culture and sartorial clothing, Pury Quimson architectural approach to design, proved he's the Bel Esprit Award of the Philippines. Pury's "Rendezvous Chic" design are not for the faint of heart as it definitely takes a man to wear a piece that looks like it's intended for a woman.

However, more than just a cascade of designer pieces, it's the fashion industry's support for Unilever's answer to the dandruff problem that affects 44 percent of Filipinos (based in an independent research conducted in 2006) – Clear Anti-Dandruff Shampoo. Now, with Clear's revolutionary ingredient, Zinc Vitamol, local fashion's arch-nemesis dandruff may never have to end their affair with the little black dress again.

Filipinos need real solution to dandruff

Unknown to many, dandruff is a skin ailment that, if untreated, can lead to more serious conditions like extreme hair and scalp dryness, irritation and hair fall. One may actually be better off without being aware of this fact however, considering that despite the presence of a dozen other shampoo brands in the market today, 64 percent of Filipinos still experience dandruff.

The good news is that a revolutionary, new anti-dandruff solution designed to stop dandruff (i.e. visible flakes) through proper hair maintenance is now available. Clear Anti-Dandruff Shampoo.

Dandruff is the abnormally fast shedding of dead skin cells from the scalp that is caused by a fungus present on human scalp called Malassezia; the fungus speeds up the shedding of cells, which results in visible flaking and scalp itching. Clear Anti-Dandruff Shampoo's active ingredient, Zinc Vitamol works as an antimicrobial agent that kills Malassezia on the scalp, leading to a reduction in visible flakes and itching.

Clear nourishes the scalp through the revolutionary Zinc Vitamol complex composed of amino acids, vitamin E and sunflower oil. However, unlike other shampoos, it not only provides nourishment but also removes dandruff which in turn leads to scalp health and growth. In addition, Clear also offers scalp and hair protection with every wash by preventing hair breakage, coating and exfoliating the scalp as well as preventing itchiness through its variants.

The brand's range of anti-dandruff solutions is specifically formulated to address the unique scalp needs of dandruff sufferers, offering a Unisex Range with four shampoo variants and three variants for men.

For women, get great nourishment from Clear's Complete Soft Care shampoo, itch-free scalp with Clear Itch Control, stronger strands with Clear's Menthol Defense and a refreshed scalp with Clear Ice Cool Shampoo.

For men, Clear offers the Clear Men Mild Shampoo, Clear Active sport and Clear Refresh.

Clear Anti-dandruff shampoo is now available in leading department stores nationwide. For more information, visit www.CLEAR.com.ph.

From left: Paul Kattenburg (senior brand manager – Clear), Jacqui Seargeant (assistant brand manager – Clear), Gilbert Tenazas (managing director), Sanjiv Mehra (chairman, Unilever Philippines), AJ Franco (VP supply chain), Freddie Gaerlan (VP finance), David Gentry (managing director), Darlene Chong (country communications manager), Dana Marasigan (VP corporate development).

A CLEAR male scalp discrimination

A kind of discrimination is rife in the Metro – and for once, men and women alike are holding hands and going all out for this bias.

Men's needs, both physically and psychologically, are different from those of women. Women have been trained from a young age to be more sensitive to the unique and growing requirements as compared to men. In addition to this, there are key differences between men and women that do make a difference to the performance of the products they use. According to a study conducted by the Dermatology Department of Chang Gung University in Korea, here are some of the key differences between the scalps of men and women.

The male scalp is sillier

Men's scalps are thicker than women's and has on average one pore that's twice the level of oil due to larger sebaceous glands. This can make men more prone to conditions like dryness, redness, irritation and other uncomfortable scalp conditions. In addition, men perspire 50 percent more than women, making them more prone to oily scalps.

The male scalp is prone to hair loss and dryness

Men generally have finer and thinner hair than females. It also doesn't help that they are more prone to hair loss and dry flaky, itchy scalps. Apart from these genetic predispositions, men usually are more styling gels and hair wax. As a result, they need shampoos that offer excellent cleansing while not stripping their hair and scalp's natural moisture.

The male scalp is more prone to dandruff

Throughout the active period of urban recreation, which has been known to play an active part in the time with which dead cells are shed, recreation is higher on males than in females. Combined with an oily scalp and external factors such as excessive use of styling products, males are generally more prone to dandruff.

Clearly, males have unique biological and lifestyle characteristics that justify the need for hair products especially formulated for their exclusive use. Fortunately, a new gender-specific anti-dandruff product category offers a clear solution.

New Clear Anti-Dandruff Shampoo for men extends that men's scalp differs from women that created its first ever anti-dandruff shampoo range just for men. Having been designed specifically to address men's hair and scalp needs, Clear also offers conditioner, toner that treats every strand of damage available in the market today.

Clear offers the same anti-dandruff and nourishing benefits that specifically address the male scalp and hair needs in three variants: Clear Herbal Menthol, which invigorates hair to avoid breakage; Clear Active Sport, which removes long-lasting, refreshing feeling; and finally, Clear Anti-Dandruff Conditioner which provides the Total Revitalization, easy and manageability.

With Clear Men, guys may not need to worry about dandruff or use their sister's girly shampoo.

The brand that clearly understands both men and women

'Thankfully, the arrival of a revolutionary brand that understands the unique differences between men and women's scalp offers a new anti-dandruff solution'

HERE ARE FOUR REASONS why women are from Venus. While women take half an hour (at least) to wash their hair, once with shampoo, followed by conditioner and then with a dollop of hair treatment for extra measure, males (for the minority) like to take an entire shower. However, if there is one thing that remains constant between men and women, it's dandruff.

Thankfully, the arrival of a revolutionary brand that understands the unique differences between men and women's scalp offers a new anti-dandruff solution.

Clear Men Dandruff Shampoo effectively eliminates visible dandruff flakes by maximizing the scalp through its revolutionary Zinc Omicel complex and offers a unique combination of ingredients with recovery wash. However, being a brand that truly recognizes the lifestyle and biological disparity between the sexes, Clear provides male dandruff solutions that target specific male and female needs.

Women can choose to nourish their hair and scalp with Clear's intense range of anti-dandruff solutions for females, available in four variants. Get silky soft hair with Clear's Complete Soft Care shampoo, or, to tackle your scalp with Clean Itch Control, use specialty formula with Clear's Menthol Infusion and a refreshed scalp with Clear Ice Cool Shampoo.

Men's needs are taken into consideration with Clear's Enhanced Formula, which addresses male's propensity for hair loss due to hair breakage. Clear Active Sport, which relays care of sweat (tendency to sweat more and Clear Oxy Express, which offers the same and convenience that the most revitalize up (therapies. Of course, as the brand understands that dealing with dandruff is problematic enough, each variant sports a subtle, masculine scent making sure users no longer have to use the girls' shampoo fragrances that are usually available in the market.

RP battles with dandruff: 44% of Filipinos still have it

SO ALARMINGLY 44 PERCENT of Filipinos suffer persistently from dandruff despite washing their hair, study reveals an independent study conducted in 2006 that probed into the scalp health of Filipinos.

Statistics also show that dandruff ranks in the number one concern among men and ranks three among women – with Filipinos complaining about embarrassing scales, itchiness, hair dryness and brittle hair.

Researchers also revealed that dandruff is not the only cause of hair loss and scalp problems. Unilever Philippines who recently launched Clear Anti-Dandruff Shampoo.

Clear Anti-Dandruff Shampoo is the only product sponsored by the International Academy for Cosmetic Dermatology (IACD) and has been clinically proven to remove visible dandruff flakes. Clear contains a revolutionary ingredient called Zinc Omicel complex that effectively fights dandruff (i.e. visible flakes) and nourishes the scalp by giving it nourishment with every wash. Clear is also the first anti-dandruff shampoo in the market that has variants especially formulated for the requirements of men and women.

With the introduction of Clear in the market, the 44 percent of Filipinos who are still afflicted with dandruff can have a new choice of brand to count on effective regimen in maintaining a healthy and dandruff free hair and scalp.

Scalp condition poses potentially devastating social impact

One of the main reasons dandruff has consistently been an embarrassing problem for sufferers – and one generally not discussed socially – is that the condition is often seen as hygiene issue.

Studies have said, (as we note above, a study carried The Role of Sebaceous Gland Activity and Scalp Microfloral Metabolism in the Etiology of Seborrheic Dermatitis and Dandruff, conducted by Prof. Thomas L. Dawson in Knew, shows that scalp itching and flaking is common in greater than 50 percent of adults. Despite its prevalence, dandruff may still pose potentially severe social and psychological implications for those who suffer from the condition.

Dilemma #1: Dandruff may cause social setback

Those apparently harmless white flakes that drift onto the shoulders of that pin green blazer, or that perfectly tailored suit, can have women wondering why they bothered getting dressed up in the first place. In general, dandruff can leave the bad impression of poor hygiene and even can give indifference regarding one's personal cleanliness.

Dilemma #2: Dandruff may become a psychological burden

Although dandruff is not a life threatening condition, its presence can lead to a loss in self-esteem and a negative self-image. This is according to the study entitled "Dandruff and subordinate dermatitis: Causes and Management" conducted by Hay RJ and Graham-Brown RA. These burdens are exacerbated when dandruff's sufferers are teased by other symptoms such as greasy hair or itching so it not only highlights the scalp problem and amplifies the discomfort, a state also exists negative implications against personal hygiene.

CLEAR is solving dandruff dilemmas

Ordinary shampoos just wash away dandruff superficially, so dandruff comes back again and again. Therefore there is a need to look out for a revolutionary new product that provides active health solutions so that one to prevent dandruff sufferers a solution to the recurring scalp discomfort and possible social implications that come out flaking and itching can cause.

Introducing, New Clear Anti-Dandruff Shampoo. Clear is scientifically an dandruff and scalp health that nourishes the scalp from within. Has effectively preventing dandruff from coming back. Clear offers a combination of six benefits with every wash: removing dandruff (i.e. visible flakes), nourishing the scalp, relieving itchiness, preventing hair breakage, cooling and refreshing the scalp and preventing a relapse due to dandruff.

With Clear's revolutionary anti-dandruff technology, Zinc Omicel and its combination of six benefits with every wash, dandruff dilemmas of both men and women can be solved, making them more confident to face the world.

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY JOSS ABREN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY NIK JUNIOR

HUTTS — BY PATRICK HUDDLESTON

LOVEPHOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGCO

ATOMIC ANDY/ROSSY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEPHEN PANUNCIO

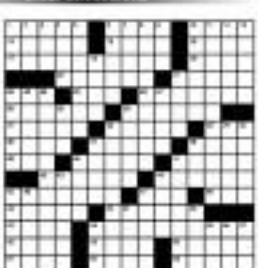
KIKO PINCHIME — BY TONGO ABREN

MAGNADOMOS — BY JONNETTE GO

TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATJANA PALANTE-JUAN

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

3		5					8	
				5			9	6
4			1		9			
		7				5		
	1			9			6	
		4				2		
			9		5			4
6	2			3				
	4					7		1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and Programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	4	3	8	2	9	7	1	5
8	9	7	1	4	5	6	2	3
1	5	2	6	7	3	4	8	9
3	2	1	9	8	4	6	7	5
4	8	6	5	3	7	9	3	1
7	5	9	3	6	1	2	4	8
2	3	5	7	9	8	1	6	4
9	1	4	6	5	2	8	9	7
5	7	8	4	1	6	3	5	2

Luxurious denims

HIGH-END: look courtesy of Gracious Barreras and Plains & Prints' Rich And Famous (RAF) line. At left, this resort RAF denim garden with halter tropes.

BEADED: Look top and bleu-black denims the hourglass RAF line.

PLAINS & PRINTS dares to revolutionize fashion with its first ever luxurious couture line called R.A.F (Rich And Famous), a collection of high-end designs that transforms the denim into stylish, richly detailed pieces for today's fashionable females.

A preview of the new collection was unveiled recently at Glorietta 3 Park in a cocktail party that gathered together top fashion editors, writers and fashionistas.

"The R.A.F. Collection is an innovation in fashion as it represents Plains & Prints' creativity to come up with elegant yet up-to-date designs to show that the denim is more than just jeans," said Plains & Prints owner Beatrice Sevilla.

The R.A.F. denim line is Plains & Prints' luxurious couture line, featuring denim fabrics transformed into garments that cut across the iconic denim-wear from's approaches to denim by various Filipino designers.

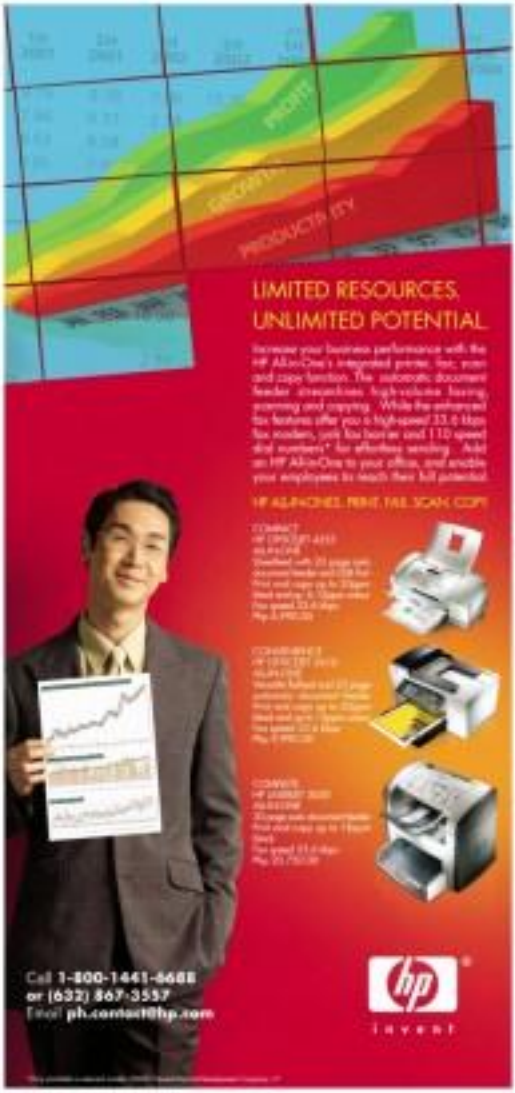
Glorietta 3 Park was transformed into a fashion gallery featuring extravagantly sporting Plains & Prints' newest collection. Guests were able to view the unique denim fabrics used, exquisite textures and unique colors, and love Plains & Prints' unconditionally crafted each design to capture the fashion taste of every Filipina.

While it has been famous for its durability for years, Plains & Prints showed the versatile side of the all-time favorite fashion staple, showcasing most fabrics on metallic denim. Stylized were elegant dresses for dressy affairs, flirty and free tops and shirts for casual events; jackets and pants that creatively fuse trendy prints with classic pieces to give the corporate office a fashionable twist.

Plains & Prints was established 12 years ago, capturing the simplicity and elegance of Filipinas through its stylish classic pieces. Since then, the brand has become a household name among fashionistas who want to keep it simple yet elegant.

With this new collection, denim fashion has definitely taken a stylish, more exciting form.

RAF metallic cloth dress with puff sleeves worn over metallic tights.



DISTRESSED CALL: Wear a distressed pair of shorts from Diva Dolls and pair it with a tee and vest for a rockin' good time.

SLIM PICKINGS: Diva Dolls shorts pair with mesh and embroidery on back pocket.

HIGH DETAILS: Short Diva Dolls jeans with ribbons, grommets and studs on back pocket.

Denim for divas

GIRLS WILL CERtainly sing the (blue) ex denim) make a comeback at SM.

Ever since a historian named Levi Strauss made the first pair of jeans during the Goldrush Gold Rush, denims have become iconic symbols of what's hip and hot in every generation.

Today, denims are back with a diva attitude, and they simply rock in three exciting new ways:

- The Rocker Look. The premium jeans craze that started in 2000 brought with it a fixation for kick pocket designs. These include crystals and patches, grommets, studs, embroidery, and colorful stitching that expresses their style messages loud and clear.
- Destroy Details. Frayed edges and distressed designs give today's denims a lot of attitude.
- The Short and the Skinny. Today's hip jeans take on a skinny shape that's fit and flattering. And they also tell short stories as miniskirts, cool cropped pants and funky shorts go hot-wired in the fashion scene.

Photographed at the Chill Lounge at the IMAX Theater at the SM Mall of Asia. The collection is available at the Girls Wear Department of all SM stores.

ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE

- **New TV stars cook up a storm on TV–and it's fun!** Viewfinder /G2
- **'Marimar' causing rift between Marian and Karylle?** /G4
- **'High School Musical' star is Fil-Am** Only in Hollywood /G2

WHAT SPELL HAVE THEY FALLEN under? Award-winning actresses Gina Pareño and Cherry Pie Picache took a detour from mainstream to indie movies and they're more than happy they say is certainly shows.

Pareño and Picache, our sole colleagues, supportive and admirers for a rounded-table discussion on Tuesday at the business offices.

They each pointed out how the leap of faith changed their professional styles—and personal lives—forever.

Pareño said she learned that "Less is more" in acting. And in breaking free of old habits, she added, she had to completely tone her "Mahirador" director, Jeffrey Jeturian.

Tropical credits: Gina was plausible now and abroad for the role. She's ridiculous, "So-called As he-namang ito!" she giggled.

Picache discussed acting in "real time," unconventional camera angles and other novel experiences that "Some Child" director Brillante "Direct" Mendoza availed her through.

She recalled, laughing, "I was aware that, in many of the scenes, all that would be seen are my back. I was on the verge of asking, 'Oooh, colegas lang kaalangan mo ako eh!'"

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5 OUIJA
6 THREE
7 RUSH HOUR 3
8 LICENSE to WED

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2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 OUIJA
5 RATATOUILLE
6 THREE
7 RUSH HOUR 3
8 LICENSE to WED

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2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 OUIJA
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THREE
6 CASA

PIONEER

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 THREE
4 OUIJA

STA. ROSA

1 BORDERTOWN
2 WILDERNESS
3 IN THE LAND of WOMEN
4 OUIJA

LIPA

1 THE SIMPSONS
2 OUIJA
3 PLANET TERROR
4 WHITE NOISE 2

DASMARINAS

1 LICENSE to WED
2 CASA
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 OUIJA

IMUS

1 CASA
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 RATATOUILLE
4 OUIJA

ANGELES

1 BLIND DATING
2 CAPE KARMA
3 OUIJA
4 BUG

TARLAC

1 OUIJA
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 VACANCY

STARMILLS

1 CAPE KARMA
2 BLIND DATING
3 RATATOUILLE

4 OUIJA
5 WHITE NOISE 2
6 STOMP THE YARD

BACOLOD

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2 WHITE NOISE 2
3 RATATOUILLE / RUSH HOUR 3
4 IN THE LAND of WOMEN
5 WILDERNESS
6 RESERVE

ILOILO

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 OUIJA
3 RUSH HOUR 3 / RATATOUILLE
4 WILDERNESS
5 WHITE NOISE 2
6 IN THE LAND of WOMEN

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Thigh-slapping buddy comedy on ice

By Oliver M. Fulumbarit
Contributor

IT'S THE COMEDIC TEAM OF YOU probably saw coming, but it's still Jean Reno, Will Ferrell and Jon Heder ("Napoleon Dynamite") reunite in riotous pair of rival ice dancers in the silly buddy comedy "Blades of Glory," a slapstick heavy romp that commands easy giggles.

Tailor-made

There's chemistry between Ferrell and Heder, aside from the fact that their characters seem tailor-made because of their goofy looks and demeanors. Ferrell and Heder play Chazz Michael Michaels and Jimmy MacElroy respectively, two contending ice-skating champs with a current rivalry for each other. It leads to a public brawl that soon costs them their careers, endorsements and dignity.

Years after the fallout that's the last, they have yet to acclimate themselves with mundane jobs. The brash, hirsihering Chazz is perpetually high and drunk while working as an ice-skating cartoon mascot, while the hygiene-obsessed Jimmy languishes in a sports accessories shop.

But his "fairy godmother" of sorts, his longtime stalker (Nick Swardson), reappears and presents a loophole in the competition rule book. It seems that Jimmy can do what he does best again, after all; he just has to find another pair to share with in pairs category. Expectedly, the desperate Chazz agrees to be their partner, until you know what happens next.

Review

But it's still amusing. It embraces its absurdities gleefully, and manages to stretch the barrel-scraping lower jokes to a point where you realize that time flows past quickly when you're having fun. Sure, it's nowhere near, but it's fun, nonetheless.

In his element

Ferrell is in his element—not that he can't be more subdued. His work in last year's "Stranger Than Fiction" is proof of that more toned-down version. But his drunken, loudest brayer seem to have a loyal, built in audience.

"Blades of Glory" is just chat large and lumpy laugh ethos that allows Ferrell to strut his stuff. It's hard to pretend anyone else as the cheerbearing "leather lothario" Chazz.

Perfect foil

As for Gunnyman-Heder, he's not the most memorable here, as he's the beloved and breakdancing idol of millions. Jimmy's all about finesse and control, making him the perfect foil to Chazz, and their glitter for pastels times that loudly from each other's difference.

That gets quite unimaginative and repetitious, sometimes, but that's often just for the source with movies like this. The sight of Heder and Ferrell in body, gaudy costumes on the ice more than makes up for some extended attempts at hilarity.

But since "Blades of Glory" follows the buddy comedy formula, now Jimmy's and Jimmy's journey together and transformation proceed on cue without real consequence.

Hiroshima, Nagasaki survivors in US docu

NEW YORK—IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE a US cable channel's climactering documentary on survivors of the two atomic bombs dropped on Japan appearing on an American television network 110 or 20 years after the event. Filmmaker Steven Okazaki tried—and failed—to make it for the 50th anniversary.

There is apparently enough emotional war trauma built up amid HBO's premises of "White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" on Monday to satisfy for years after the United States detonated the first ever nuclear bomb over Hiroshima. The second was dropped three days later over Nagasaki. It ended World War II.

Uncomfortable

Why is the time finally right?

"History is always worth recording. If there is a moment in history that hasn't been recorded and you [get the chance], you should do it," said Sheila Nevins, head of HBO's documentary unit. She hopes it will be chosen in schools.

The unconfortable footage of cities reduced to rubble and grotesquely deformed survivors has received relatively little circulation because—unlike the well-recorded Holocaust—this was something done by American, Nevins said.

"The documentary is built on stories told by 14 survivors, with children's pictures depicting the bombing and footage of the injured that was harvested from the public for 20 years. The American from Okazaki interviews American crew members who dropped the bombs.

The project dated back to the early 1980s, when Okazaki agreed to accompany his sister to a San Francisco area meeting of bomb survivors for a school project she was doing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

She dropped the class, but he went to the meeting anyway. At his end, one man stood up and said that everyone who agreed Okazaki should make a film about their stories should raise their hands. They all did and turned to him.

Okazaki wanted to make a comprehensive documentary for PBS in the mid-1990s. The project fell through, with the filmmaker believing PBS did not want to risk angering World War II veterans. He instead made a more personal film, "The Obachanwo Club," and figured his dream was dead.

That is where he found Steven Nevins.

"I was shocked when they called and said they wanted to do this film.

When he attended a festival of bombing-related films in the 1980s, Okazaki was struck by how little survivors were heard from; it was much easier to debate whether dropping bombs that instantly killed more than 200,000 people was right or wrong.

Other than documenting the horror of war, the film carefully takes no sides on the morality of dropping the bombs. Okazaki says reliance, in an interview, to say how he personally feels about it.

"But I have a strong motivation to get those stories out," he said. "There was this empty space on the shelves under 'G.'"

'Grave'

That is not entirely true. The 1970s film "Hiroshima Mon Amour" embalmed post-detonation footage. The 1989 Japanese film "Grave since Black Rain" was about the aftermath. Japanese John Hersey's book "Hiroshima" has received wide circulation.

Something Okazaki found mystifying, and a barrier to his research, was the lingering stigma faced by bomb survivors in Japan. Perhaps if it became they resisted Japanese of what they would rather forget, it was never fully explained to him. When he sought to interview the "Hiroshima Maidens," girls who came to the United States in the 1950s for surgery on disfigurements, the only one who would talk was a woman who now lives in the US.

'Marimar' stirs controversy

If rumors were to be believed, the new Kapuso soap is causing a rift between Marian and Karylle—not to mention Angel Locsin

By Rayani San Diego Jr.

THE NEW GMA 7 TELENOVELA "MARIMAR," set to premiere Aug. 13, has stirred a tempest of controversies in a soapie—mainly involving lead stars Marian Rivera and Dingdong Dantes.

Controversy 1: The steamy scenes between Marian and Dingdong, as Marimar and Sergio respectively, have caused tension between the leading stars and has reallife sweetheart, singer-actress Karylle.

Relax, says Dingdong. "Karylle and I are just at a point where we're doing things separately. I'm back to acting and she's busy with her new album."

Is there also a brewing catfight between Marian and Karylle?

Not true, Marian insists. "I see no problem if Dingdong and I should become close. I love Karylle as 'S.O.S' recently and I grieved her. She has no reason to get mad or jealous. This is just a job."

Big adjustment

It just so happens that the job involves smooching Dingdong—on the set, at least.

"That was a big adjustment for me," Marian insists. "It's my first time to kiss my co-actress/ partner. I heard there's also a bed scene in a future episode."

Good thing she is sharing such delicious shots with Dingdong, she points out. "He always makes me feel at ease."

Controversy 2: Pitch "Marimar." Marian is assuming the position vacated by Angel Locsin in the former property of GMA 7.

Marian seems reluctant to accept such a tag.

"I'd like for that to come from my bosses at GMA 7 or from the televiewers."

In any case, she says, she has nothing against Angel.

"She has never said anything against me," Marian explains. "I don't want to think of us as rivals."

Marian would rather focus on the smooth working relationship she has with the whole cast of "Marimar"—including Katrina Halili, who portrays Sequilla, the show's nemesis.

Marian is frequently on-cam with Marilyn Reynes, who plays Consuelo, the nanny. "She's a pioneer in sitcom, now like her character: fun and friendly," Marian says.

Not his part, Dingdong has nothing but praise for Richard Gomez, who plays his father Renato.

"I look forward to our scenes together," Dingdong says. "The first time I acted with him was on [the GMA 7 Jonas crew] 'Yesterdays,' where he played my mentor."

Although Dingdong is optimistic about the show's launch on Monday, Marian is less fridges that the premiere's on.

"I don't want to think about people's expectations and scores myself on," she says. "Basta I'm giving 100 percent of myself because I've grown to love Marimar and the people I work with."

BUT ALL 6 CHO Batman but and Miguel, who plays Folgueo the talking dog.

This show biz week ... years ago

ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS during the week of Aug. 5-11:

1957: "American Bandstand" switches from Dick Clark-dobsord on ABC.

1963: Marilyn Monroe was found dead in her Los Angeles home, an apparent suicide. She was 36.

1969: Actress Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally murdered at Tate's Los Angeles home. Cult leader Charles Manson and some of his disciples were later convicted of the crimes.

DID YOU KNOW...

1984: Actor Richard Burton died at a hospital in Geneva, he was 58.

1995: Grateful Dead singer and guitarist Jerry Garcia died of a heart attack while undergoing drug rehabilitation. He was 53.

1999: Singer Corine Wilson had gastro-bypass surgery and broadcast it on the Internet.

2000: Actor Alec Guinness died in southern England at the age of 86.

2001: Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman were divorced after 11 years of marriage.

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 RUSH HOUR 3	3 RATATOUILLE	4 DUAL			
GLORIETTA 4	1 RATATOUILLE	2 DUAL	3 RUSH HOUR 3				
	4 THE LOOKOUT	5 THE SIMPSONS	6 RUSH HOUR 3	7 LICENSE TO WED			
GREENBELT 1	1 LICENSE TO WED	2 RUSH HOUR 3					
GREENBELT 2	1 RUSH HOUR 3	2 RUSH HOUR 3					
	3 THE LOOKOUT	4 RATATOUILLE	5 THE SIMPSONS				
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 RUSH HOUR 3	2 RATATOUILLE					
	3 THE SIMPSONS	4 LICENSE TO WED	5 RUSH HOUR 3				
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 RUSH HOUR 3	2 RUSH HOUR 3	3 RATATOUILLE	4 THE SIMPSONS			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RUSH HOUR 3	2 THE SIMPSONS					
	3 RATATOUILLE	4 RUSH HOUR 3	5 DUAL				
TRINOMA	1 DUAL	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 THE SIMPSONS	4 RATATOUILLE			
	5 LICENSE TO WED	6 RUSH HOUR 3	7 RUSH HOUR 3				

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Activity Area: Celebrity Meet by Celebrity Tone, August 10 & 12, 2007 at the Activity Center

Greenbelt — Bling & Travel in Greenbelt 1 Promo: Get a chance to win exciting prizes and a trip for two to Boracay for every P500 worth of purchase at any Greenbelt 1 establishment from July 1 to September 30, 2007

Alabang Town Center — Alabang Town Center Grand Grocery Shopping Spree Promo: July 1 to August 31, 2007, Multilevel

Ayala Center Cebu — Variety Show, August 3 to 30, 2007 at the APEC Access

Market! Market! — Mechanical Action, August 10 to 12, 1pm, 3:30 pm & 6 pm at the Activity Center

Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at RWB's Onstage Theater. Opens August 11, 2007. For inquiries, pls. call 867-8756

Ayala Museum — Science Photo Competition Exhibit, August 10 to 30, 2007. For more info, pls. call 757-1117 loc 41 loc. or e-mail museum_inquire@ayalamuseum.org

Tsi Nonna — Store with Security, August 10 & 11 at the Activity Center; 8th CITE Event, August 10, 2007 at the Activity Center

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Glorietta Activity Center, July 27-29, 11:00 am, 2:00 pm & 5 pm

Trinoma Activity Center, August 3-5, 10:30am, 12:00 & 5 pm

Alabang Town Center Activity Center, August 10-12, 11 am, 2 pm & 5 pm

Ayala Center Cebu Activity Center, August 24-26, 11 am, 4 pm & 6:30 pm

Greenbelt Activity Center, August 30-31, 11 am, 2:30 pm & 5 pm

glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! Tsi Nonna

NEW YORK—MATT DAMON IS HOLLYwood's best investment, says Forbes.com.

For every dollar he was paid for his last three roles, Damon brought in $20 of gross income, the site calculated.

That put the 36-year old "Bourne" star atop a Forbes list of 22 film heavyweights, ranked by the same financial formula. The "Ultimate Star Payback" list was posted Monday.

Biggest opening

The first two "Bourne" movies grossed an estimated $600 million at the box office and in DVD sales, Forbes said. The third installment, "The Bourne Ultimatum," opened last weekend and brought in $78.2 million at the box office. It was the biggest August film opening ever.

Brad Pitt took second place on the list, with a gross income return of $26 for each dollar of his pay and Vince Vaughn and wife Johnny Depp followed with $23.

Pitt's co-star, Jennifer Aniston, is the most profitable actress with a gross income return of $17. Pitt's companion, Angelina Jolie, ranked ninth with $10.

Bottom dweller

"The biggest stars in Hollywood are not the actors that deliver the biggest returns," Forbes senior editor Michael Ozanian said in a statement Monday.

Russell Crowe is at the bottom of the list. His last three films—"A Good Year," "Cinderella Man" and "Master and Commander"—averaged just $8 in gross income for every dollar spent on the Oscar winners, Forbes said.

BRAD PITT

Two Tom

Movies starring the two Tom— Hanks and Cruise—averaged $32 and $31 of gross income, respectively. Will Smith and Denzel Washington each brought in $30.

On the comedic front, Adam Sandler brought in $9 per dollar earned, and Will Ferrell and Jim Carrey brought in $4 each.

Formula

Forbes.com calculated the net revenue for a film by adding the worldwide box office and revenues from DVD sales and DVD rentals and then subtracting its budget. The net revenue was divided by the actor's total compensation to derive gross income. The average gross income of an actor's last three films produced their box office return.

AP

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"Inside the Actors Studio" host James Lipton with Natasha Bedingfield

Pinoy punk pioneer goes pop

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN 20 YEARS SINCE a music-crazy kid named Tommy Tanchanco started the independent punk record label Twisted Red Circle, which made it possible for struggling young Pinoy bands to have their own albums.

Today Tanchanco relives his role, although on a much lesser version, with 121Music Records which recently announced three new pop releases.

• "Polyetnopunkfic," an audio-video CD compilation of Rockstrictly's songs and videos which includes "Break the Time"—currently enjoying exposure on the 121 music channel.

• "Barbie Rocks to the Big Beats," a live recording of Barbie Almalbis' concert at the Araneta Coliseum. It features a special appearance of Rivermaya's acoustic duo who sang three numbers with her.

• "Kitchie and Barbie Video Collection," a limited edition VCD of Barbie Almalbis and Kitchie Nadal's music videos.

SPIN

ROCKSTRICTLY

New from Bedingfield

British singer-songwriter Natasha Bedingfield has released a third of nine releasing pressed and praise music before she broke into the musical scene with "Unwritten" in 2004.

The CD, which contained upbeat pop-rock songs, sold over 2.3 million copies worldwide. The title track got a Grammy and for "Best Female Pop Performance."

For her second album, "N.B." (from BMG), the 25-year-old Bedingfield works with a team of collaborators including Mike Elizondo of Eminem, live and Sir Cozz Jones, Adam Levine (Maroon 5) and Greg Kurstin (Beck, Lily Allen), among others.

Retrospective

"On My Knees: The Best of Jon Secada" "Music of Protest in a 17-track career retrospective that reviews her revealed. Covers run in Christian comic.

Velasquez's first made her mark with the platinum-selling "Shawcode Place" in 1996.

JAO VELASQUEZ

Weepy but...

"When She Cries: Rhythm for the Broken Heart" (Sony BMG) is not only a comeback for the brokens. Although it's filled with sadly weepy tracks we "Once I Supposed To Live Without You" (Michael Bolton), "Tell Me Heart" (Tony Braxton) and "On For Help" (Rick Astley), it also offers songs of hope ("Love Will Lead You Back" by Taylor Dayne) moving on ("Little Over You" by Toni) and loving again ("Eternal Flame" by Human Nature, among others).

GWEN ETEMAN

Gwen toes the line for Malaysian show

KUALA LUMPUR—THREE WEEKS BEFORE recording contestant in US singer Gwen Stefani's concert here this month, after a Muslim student group demanded the event's cancellation for obscenity.

Although Malaysia is a predominantly Muslim country conservative groups often, Dress upon departure from strict religious injunctions.

Malaysia's Star Movie Countdown reviews, which is presenting the Aug. 25 show, said: "She will abide by the guidelines to ensure that her show will not [offend] local sensibilities."

Reuters

Female directors shine once more

LOS ANGELES—FEMALE DIrectors are breaking today's theatrical norm more than ever, with movies as diverse as the women themselves. Yet the struggle for equality, recognition and respect continues.

Moving beyond the traditional female genres of romantic comedies, these new films range from Rob Lowenstein's critical comedy "Talk to Me," starring Don Cheadle as a disrespected disc jockey, to the upcoming romantic farce Jodi "2 Days in Paris." Her valentine of actress Julie Delpy's 20-year battle to crack the director's door.

Bumper crop

Despite the recent bumper crop of films, the statistics for female directors remain dismal.

Of the roughly 13,400 members of Directors Guild of America, only about 1,000, or 7 percent, are listed as female directors.

Yet veterans fare even worse, as Academy Award for Best Director and only three have ever been nominated: Lina Wertmüller by 1976's "Seven Beauties," Jane Campion for 1993's "The Piano" and Sofia Coppola for 2003's "Lost in Translation."

Said Robin Swicord, a longtime screenwriter ("Little Women," "Memoirs of a Geisha") directing for the first time with "The Jane Austen Book Club" due out Sept. 15: "I wish we could make our movies without people saying, 'And she's a women director.'"

This year has seen tremendous work from actress Gayle Wilder, making her writing and directing debut at just 20 with the stirring Alzheimer's drama "Sweet Fruit Tree" starring Cheryl Hoskins; actor Cheryl Hoskins' gone on the female comedy "Introducing the Dwights," and Zoe Lisenwitz followed in the footsteps of father John Cassavetes with his first feature, the indie "Broken English."

Short Springer Berman co-directed the big-screen adaptation of "The Nanny Diaries" (out Aug. 24) with her husband, Robert Pulcini. Helen Hunt's directorial debut, the romantic comedy "Then She Found Me," premieres at September's Toronto International Film Festival. Marisa Shoenbrun-Silverstein, "August Rush," is due Oct. 19. Until March marks the return of Kimberly Peirce with her first film since 1999's "Boys Don't Cry": "Stop Loss," about a soldier returning from the Iraq war. And, of course, Valerie Faris co-directed the smash pair "Little Miss Sunshine," which was nominated for four Oscars and won two.

"Thirty-five years ago, the statistics were dismal in the business realm. Now we've got women at the highest level of management as all the studios and all the networks," said Jane Fleming, president of the nonprofit Women in Film. "You've got to hope that the creative ones will follow."

Not deliberate

Don't forget: studio executives look out for female filmmakers!

Said Fleming, who also runs a production company: "They're ... doing the best they can. It's the job of organizations like Women in Film to get people's product in their hands, to have screenings, to get it out in the press."

Which brings up the issue of the kinds of movies women are expected to make. Mary Lediz is an anomaly for having directed the action movies "Swing Empire" so is Kathryn Bigelow, who made "Point Break."

"Hollywood is still an old boys' club. The ultimate member of the film industry is a man. Guys climbing a reward and smashing on a reel of film, defending his turf," said Tom Orbell, columnist for thewrapper.com website. "That says it all. Sort of it a society's limit. When a man and a woman sit a coin decide to see a movie, the man is less likely to see 'Chicken Little.'"

Whatever, by the way, was directed by a man, Ridley Scott. AP

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Vanessa Hudgens: 'I love being a Filipina'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Reuben U. Sibayan

LOS ANGELES—WHEN we first saw Vanessa Hudgens as she came out for lunch in the courtyard gardens of a hotel, she instantly reminded us of Roseanne Sonora and Sheryl Cruz.

The Filipino-American actress headed to our table to say hi to Rich Ross, president of Disney Channel Worldwide. We had just discussed with Rich the phenomenal success of "High School Musical" all over the world, including the Philippines. Rich stood up to chat with Vanessa, who still sanctuary kimono looked perfect in this sandpaper-and-cashmere setting.

Half an hour later, Vanessa sat down for a press con. The 18 year old singer-actress, her on- and off-screen boyfriend Zac Efron (who is also the high school heartthrob in the movie "Hairspray") and the rest of the gang are back in "High School Musical 2" ("HSM2"), whose predicted success everywhere by its success on many levels: over 100 million viewers; 7 million plus DVD copies sold; the soundtrack CD topped the charts last year; and the concert tour is the US, Canada and several Latin American countries were sold out in 45 min.

The best stunts of Vanessa, whose mother Gina Guangco is a Filipina, are her dark eyes, which twinkle when she smiles or laughs. Her brunette hair was artfully arranged in the back. She wore several bracelets on both wrists.

Another 19 this, Chuskie "Chusky" Klapow, returns as choreographer along with Bonnie Story and director Kenny Ortega of the production number which "HSM" is known for. Chusky whose mom is also a Pinay, met with Kenny and Bonnie as Kenny feared for their Choreography in "HSM."

Zac, whose an interviewed repairer, politely refused to answer a colleague's request for him to talk about his personal relationship with Vanessa. Zac and Vanessa, who play Troy and Gabriella in "HSM," even have a very catered for them at la Rompelina Tamarind. So we asked Zac instead to chat about Vanessa on, ahem, purely professional basis.

Here's what he said: "Vanessa and I go way back to the very first auditions that I ever did. We were in the room with about-paired together in the auditions. I think we were the only pair from the mass of kids that was never separated. We always read together over and over. I wish I could put my finger on what makes our chemistry work onscreen. But I can tell you that she's easy to talk to, very kind, sweet and she has a great sense of humor. When you combine that with an amazing voice and her beauty, you're going to have a star. She's amazing to work with."

So "HSM3," Ashley Tisdale or Shar pop again, plays Antonella in the lives of Troy and Gabriella.

Vanessa, who has an album titled "V" has a younger sister, Stella, 11, also aspiring actress. Their father, Greg Hudgens, is of Irish and Native American descent.

Can you share your thoughts about your Filipino heritage?

I am so proud of my heritage. I love being a Filipina. There aren't very many Filipino girls in the industry. So being able to stand up and be that girl makes me proud. My mother is so proud. She grew up in Manila. I don't even think she knows it's doing that well over there. I'd love to make it over there sometime. Unfortunately, I have not had a chance to visit.

Do you speak Tagalog?

Oh, not really. My mom tried to teach me when I was younger. I am not that great at languages. I really want to learn, though.

When do you think you will visit the Philippines?

I think whenever I have a good second in the melting and just go when I want. I have been talking about it forever and it never materializes. Hopefully, soon. I next want to see the Philippines.

What did your mom tell you about the Philippines? And in what ways are you Filipino?

She told me several stories about where she used to live. She has 11 brothers and sisters so she had a big family. I love Filipino food. I have kalabasa, pancit and adobo. I am such a Filipino—I eat rice every day (laughter).

How much of an inspiration is your mom in your career?

My mom was the one who was always there for me, especially with singing. She was always the one who kept me going when it came to singing. When I recorded my album, I said, "Mom, thank you. I am finally my thank you for all that stuff that you did for me." It finally paid off...everything she taught me, about morals and everything. She's an inspiration. She always tells me how proud she is of me. It is really touching.

How strict are your parents?

My parents are kind of strict. My mom raised me very well. I didn't date until I was 16. I never really went out that much. I am the kind of girl who loves to stay home and just watch movies. They don't really have anything to be strict about.

What did your mom tell you about boys?

My mom never said, "Watch out for this or that boy." Her focus was I had good judgment. I always liked the nice guys anyway, so it was never like I was going for the bad guy, like just said, "Be careful with boys." But I always just went for the nice surfer guys. I guess she was okay with that (laughter).

How did you start singing?

It started when I was in pre-school. I was in a play and I never told my parents. I don't know why I didn't tell them. I guess it never crossed my mind to tell them. I told my mom that I saved a baby doll. So she went out and bought me a baby doll which was a huge thing. I always had Barbies to dress so I was excited to have my own doll. I made my parents take me to school and it was evening. There was a blizzard. We were living in Oregon then. We almost didn't go. My parents got to see me singing "Away in a Manger." I was holding little baby Jesus and I was Mother Mary.

Since then, I have always loved acting, singing and dancing. I would always dance around my house when I was 5 years old, choreographing my own dances to "Everyone Knows Mary." I moved from Oregon to California so I could start taking dance and piano classes.

You lived in many places. Where did you grow up?

I lived in a lot of places while I was growing up. I was born in Salinas (California). I lived in Oregon and Pinoy Hollywood (California). I moved all over the place until about the age of 9 or 10, when we moved to San Diego (California). That's where I grew up. I moved to Los Angeles about two years ago.

Can you talk about suddenly finding yourself in one of the most successful teen TV movies ever made?

It's so crazy. Especially coming from a Disney Channel movie, that I had so much bonding. Once it started to blow up, it just blew my mind more because I never ever thought it would become as big as it did.

How hard is it to have a relationship with Zac, especially since the two of you are so much in the limelight because of the success of "High School Musical"?

I am a private person. I always have been. I love keeping my personal life to myself as we just try not to talk about it that much. We have a professional relationship on camera and outside of that is bizarre when you see pictures from the paparazzi and everything. But you just have to take it the best you can. There's really nothing you can do about it. People are interested because they love what you're doing. So I guess in a way it's a compliment.

What did you think when you first heard the news, Zanessa?

It's just weird to know that people actually cared. It's just bizarre to me but it's okay.

Did you and Zac know each other before "High School Musical"?

It's really funny because we're friends with the same people. But I have never met him before. The first time I met him was at the audition callbacks when they were running and matching people. They paired Zac and me from the very beginning.

How was your own high school life?

Unfortunately I never had a chance to go to a real high school. I was homeschooled my whole high school years. I kind of loved my high school years through "High School Musical."

So how fun is it to be homeschooled?

It was okay. It was different because I was in the business. I was homeschooled because I really didn't have any time to go to a real school. I'd make up late because I like to sleep. I'd do school work for several hours and then hang out or go to Disneyland. It was cool. It was different because my mom was teaching me but it was nice. I got to study what I wanted.

Are you a math genius in real life as you are in the movie?

I never loved math. My favorite was biology. I also loved science and chemistry. Math was never my favorite.

When did you start professionally as an actress?

One of my girlfriends asked me if I would go to an audition with her for a commercial. Not realizing, I booked it. I was doing tons of commercials and theater at the time so I was already used to doing musicals and stuff. One thing just led to another. I did a commercial and then another one. I started getting guest spots on TV shows and went on from there to do the movies "Thirteen" and "Thunderbirds." Oh, and then I had my album which was many because I never thought that it would happen.

So what is your priority, singing or acting?

My main focus from the very beginning was acting. Singing was something that I was good at, but never really thought of pursuing. The opportunity to do an album came after "High School Musical." There were several offers and I couldn't decide who to sign with. Finally, I picked Hollywood Records and I made my album, "V." It was a learning experience, being in the studio and finding what kind of music my voice was. I tried different kinds of music. I did pop, R&B and rock. I threw it all together and had this collection of different music which is why I call it "V." The V is not only for Vanessa but for variety as well because there's a different amount of music there. Acting has always been my number one priority but we'll see what happens.

Are you a willing role model to the young set or would you rather not be one?

I have been a role model. I think that is Hollywood... not many people are very good role models. Kids are looking up to the wrong people. All of us in the Disney Channel are good kids. You're not going to see us dancing on tables at the clubs. That's just not us.

Are you going to finish your education?

Yes, because education is really important. It is something that will be there with you forever. I definitely want to get a college education when the time is right. Right now, the opportunities that I have are too amazing to pass up.

Which countries have you been to with the stars?

We turned most of Latin America. We also went to London, which was amazing. Australia was one of my favorite places because we had the most time to just hang out there.

What can we expect between Gabriella and Troy in the second movie?

Sharpay tries to come between Troy and Gabriella and things get complicated. There's a lot of drama. We just absolutely taking it up a notch. It takes place over the summer in Spain and Sharpay's country club.

Sharpay decides she wants everything to go her way this summer. The only way that's going to happen is to get Troy as her boyfriend or her boy toy or whatever she calls him (laughter). She makes the head of the country club call Troy Bolton and try to get him to come work at this club. But he won't go by himself. He has to get all of his friends who need jobs at the country club. We all have to work there and Sharpay thinks she's going to get me fired because it was supposed to be just Troy. I get a job as a lifeguard. I was quite frightened by wearing a one-piece and lathering sun (laughter).

We battle our way through to survive working at the country club. Some people get packed aside and left to the dustbin. Other people change. At the end of the day, of course it's a happy ending.

So one day?

Seven days (laughter).

Are you signed up to do the "High School Musical 3"?

Not yet. I know that they're writing the script. I have not read it. I don't know exactly what the story line will be about, but I think if the script is good, and if everyone across-the-board is definitely be a part of it.

E-mail the columnist at reuspeaks_OnHollywood.com and read his blog, "The Stories Aspect," on www.inquirer.bloggers.net/reuben-aspect.

Vanessa Hudgens and Zac Efron, seniors (as depicted by Gabriella Montez and Troy Bolton) in "High School Musical 2," who are all back in Disney Channel's "High School Musical 3."

LIVING Stars

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CELESTE LEGASPI

I LOVE MY BREAKFAST NOOK AND the mural—outside. I painted the mural myself. The paintings in the breakfast corner are by my daughter Lola. She recently had a group exhibit with other women artists. I'd like to believe that she inherited my father's (National Artist Ike Vinzal Alto Cruz Legaspi) and my husband's (sisters being cousins Nonoy Zuñiga's) talent in the arts. I've also started painting again. The mural is in the Indian folk style called Madubhani. That's my favorite. I picked it up during a trip to India. I've also visited Bhutan and Nepal. I am hoping to go to Kazakhstan this year to complete my Silk Road travels.

Reynard Sam Diego Jr.

FAVORITE NOOKS

TIMMY CRUZ

My real house in Tagaytay is really made up of favorite nooks. Meaning, I deliberately created them to make a way that I can sit anywhere and feel happy and content. Sunset time at daybreak, when the sky is clear, I walk over this lit-in gazebo in the garden and have my first meditation hour for the day. From here I can see my "fairyland" in the soft, cool light—the oasis of my dreams, in the midst of trees and green grass.

JIM GUIAO PANZALAN

TAIL TALES

LOUIE HEREDIA

A PET IS LIKE A CHILD. TO HAVE ONE IS A DECISION THAT ONE makes. When I first brought Shigeki home, he was this small (shows size with fingers). Now, six years later, he's big and healthy. To think, he's a rescue baby. He's very cute. There's something different about him. He's very carefree and friendly. Unlike other cats, he likes being around people. Since he's already neutered, I try to make him exercise. The new, he's as fat as Garfield. He's quite finicky. He only eats Friskies and (gourmet fresh fish). I have three other cats that live outside my townhouse. I call them squatter cats.

Reynard Sam Diego Jr.

BOOTS ANSON-ROA

BOOKS

THE BOOK I AM READING now, "Teaching to Change Lives: Seven Proven Ways to Make Your Teaching Count Most" by Dr. Howard Hendricks, is a gift from one of my master's degree students at Ateneo de Manila University. It essentially clarifies the real meaning of teaching—that a teacher not only teaches the subject, but teaches about life. It says that if you can make a good person out of your student, then you've succeeded in your profession. It is their goodness as people that they will carry throughout their lives. The book also offers tips and guidelines on how to achieve this.

Reynard Sam Diego Jr.

Talk about... togethermess

NEW YORK— Jennifer Lopez and husband Marc Anthony who co-star in the new movie "El Cantante," will also perform a concert tour together starting next month.

Marc Anthony says he was amazed at first about working with his wife on roles big and Hector Lavoe's biopic.

Lopez explains: "We have a high standard for each other, we know what the other is capable of, even more than we know ourselves." AP

JET LI struggles with some English lines during this set closet.

'The Hero' and his Pinoy connection

JET LI, MUSIC CHAMPION AND STAR OF the films "Shaolin Temple," "Once Upon a Time in China," "Romeo Must Die," "The One" and "Hero," flew come to the Philippines in 1999 for a hang-to exhibition.

He has since held this country close to his heart, and it was one of the first to premiere his movies outside of China.

Jet says he feels a real connection to the country, and that this was where he got his screen name.

"My real Chinese name is Li Lianjie. Everybody knows me in China. But totally mine comes first, so when they first translated it to English, my name became Lianjie Li. My first movie came out in 1982. In the Philippines, a certain company bought the rights to all of my movies, so of course they were in charge of doing the publicity, too. When they saw 'Lianjie Li,' they thought the name was too hard to pronounce. Then somebody suggested that my career was like a phoenix that took off quickly. So they put 'Jet Li' on the movie posters. Soon everybody was calling me by this new name," he related.

Jet was in town recently to shoot "Hero," the new San Miguel Beer TV commercial soon to air on local TV.

As a kid, he said, he thought San Miguel was made in Hong Kong because he used to see a factory with its name near the place where he lived.

Coffee for a fan

SNEAK PEEK

WITH the director, Stephen Hyo

At 24, TV/film personality John Lloyd Cruz has successfully made the transition from teen heartthrob to dramatic actor.

Proof is his critically acclaimed performance in 2006's "Dubai," in which he played the brother of Agot Isidro.

With his regular TV taping sessions, appearances and other projects, John Lloyd seems to enjoy having coffee around all the time.

In Boracay Clavan's TV commercial, John Lloyd is shrouded along with fans in a sudden downpour that leaves everyone's hair frizzed.

JOHN LLOYD CRUZ

In the next scene, John effects a steaming cup of coffee in one of those adverse scenes some he wouldn't mind encountering in real life.

"I love everything to do I can," he says. "There suppose drivers me to try to give my best performance in everything."

ACTRESS Michelle Phiffer kneels down to outshine star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame after it was unveiled in a ceremony on Aug. 6 in Hollywood, California. AP

Top honors for 'Idol Gives Back'

LOS ANGELES—FOX'S "Idol Gives Back," which pumped millions of dollars to and to children in extreme poverty, and HBO's "The Addiction Project" educational campaign will receive the television academy's 2007 Governors Awards.

Part concert and part public-service campaign, "Idol Gives Back" joined "Stars can Idol" host Ryan Seacrest and Elton John Gemstar with team clinics, fundraisers and corporate sponsors to raise more than $74 million.

"The Addiction Project," a partnership between HBO, the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, included a series of documentary films and outreach events in more than 100 cities to build awareness of addiction as a chronic brain disease.

The Governors Award is the academy of Television Arts & Sciences' highest honors. AP

Song of revival

NEW ORLEANS—The rare Musicians' Village is the work of two New Orleans born musicians—singer-pianist Harry Connick Jr. and saxophonist Branford Marsalis—who decided to the post-Hurricane Katrina turmoil. But something was needed to help musicians stay and play in the city.

Two years after the hurricane, their vision is quickly turning into a rainbow-colored reality. The village—a tidy cluster of about 80 brightly painted homes—is just a small gleamer of hope to a storied city.

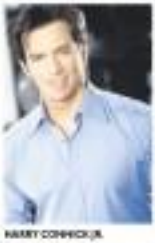
Thousands of volunteers, including faith-based groups, college kids and music celebrities from across the country, have journeyed to the village to pound nails, paint and do other work. Professionals handle the electricity, plumbing and masonry.

Musicians make up more than 70 percent of the village. Connick and Branford Marsalis have helped raise funds.

So far, more than half the homes are occupied, with four generations of musicians. AP

Stars For Others

ROB MARSHALL



HARRY CONNICK JR.

Take me, she says

KHARTOUM, Sudan—Actress and activist Mia Farrow has offered her freedom in exchange for a prominent ailing Darfur rebel trapped in a hospital, according to a letter addressed to Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir posted on Farrow's website Monday.

Suleiman Jamous, a member who has been a key link between Darfur rebels and humanitarian workers in the war-torn region, needs to leave Sudan for further medical care, Farrow said in the letter dated Saturday.

"As you are undoubtedly aware, Mr. Jamous is in need of a medical procedure that cannot be carried out in Kadugli," Farrow, who has repeatedly traveled to Darfur as a United goodwill ambassador, wrote in the letter.

"I am therefore offering to take Mr. Jamous' place, to exchange my freedom for his in the knowledge of his importance to the citizens of Darfur and in the conviction that he will appreciate the urgent need to end the just and lasting peace that the Sudanese people deserve and hope for," she wrote. AP

IVAN SLACKETT

Malibu party for Emmy bets

ALI LARTER, "Heroes."

MASI OKA, "Heroes."

Red Carpet

JENNA Fischer, left, and Angela Kinsey, stars of "The Office." The funds are held at the Universal Media Studios.

JENNIFER Morrison, left, and Lisa Edelstein, "House."

RENAISSANCE Rooms are very lively and can be for works like X lamps from the Photo Collections at Shangri-La Mall.

CANDLES on the dining table are from Crate.

The Del Rosarios' contemporary condo is filled with carefully picked souvenirs from all over the world

Modern Monsour

HOMEGUN collects Bruce Lee dolls.

AT ISLEK, the owner soldiers really come back as the terrace filled with White Angelo plants.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Roger Carjoe

ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS INCEPTIVELY SIMple, with its clean, sleek lines and warm earth colors, the Del Rosarios' condominium unit in Makati is filled with souvenirs from all over the world.

There's a oversized wash from South Africa, the orange carpet from Egypt. A bar table from Bali. A lacquered bamboo table from Vietnam. A magazine rack from Brazil.

Actor-athlete Monsour del Rosario admits that he leaves the interior design concept to his wife, Joy Zaparas, and her best friend Aurora Bautista.

No complaints

"Joy and Aurora picked up a lot of pieces from their numerous travels," Monsour relates. "I have no complaints because they have great taste."

In designing the flat, Aurora kept in mind the Del Rosarios' personalities. "They're very relaxed and laid-back, so I came up with a space that's very inviting — soothing and formal. And the colors are light and earthy," says Aurora, who co-owns the lifestyle store Pineapple and the candle shop Crate.

The place is also filled with bits of wood as furniture. "Wood feels homey," Joy says.

The eight-seater dining table and buffet table in the dining room, made of Philippine mahogany and bought in Subic, were wedding gifts from his mother, says Monsour.

Aurora and Joy created cozy sitting areas that are perfect for entertaining. The couches, tables, consoles and colorful throw cushions were all designed by Aurora.

"One advantage of having a big space

POTTER Jess Soriano's four prints of 19th-century Philippines, gifts from a among the silver wares a from Monsour's aunt.

BRUCE Lee magazine is a personal from brother Miles.

(LED by, at.) is that we can set up a lot of seating areas where guests can hang out and chat," Aurora says. "We put the round table in the foyer just in case the party spills over there. Or the kids could eat there while their parents are in the dining area."

Finishing pictures and sculptures of son Mark are strewn all over the place.

Monsour's favorite spot is the chaise longue near the terrace. "When we entertain at home, I love sitting here and watching everyone," he says.

The Del Rosarios made it a point to put a touch of nature in the urban home.

The terrace, where Monsour often unwinds with a bottle of beer at dusk, teems with potted White Angels. "They're abusive in bloom," notes Joy.

She loved the rose bushes up with fortune plants. "Most rose stalk gets a lot of admiration," she says. "The plants make the place awake."

Joy proudly displays Ifugao and Mansaca weaves in the living room.

Heights, textures

"They are loved, looking for love to their works, even with cat motifs," Aurora says.

The entire room tells the design and Renaissance theme are from Pineapple.

"We played with heights and textures," she has notes. "Mr. chose tall lamps and vases so the eye will not be fixed on one level. There's always something new to discover."

The entire house is designed with the Del Rosarios' diverse interests in mind.

"I've always liked the pieces that say with things home," says Monsour, who runs the Olympians Taekwondo Training Center and Fish Martial arts Equipment. "My sad Aurora also helped spruce up my two gyms."

FRAMED photos of Bruce Lee is a gift from his sister Tisha.

AT THE Olympians Taekwondo gym, with 1-year-old son Mark.

IN THE foyer, painting by Ivan Abrahan paired with marble vases from Pineapple that hold Solane leaves.

KEEPSAKES magnets of sports icons like Lydia de Vega and Bea Lucero, as well as Bruce Lee memorabilia.

TO ADD color to the vanity living room, Joy and Aurora brought home rose carpet from Egypt and displayed a painting by Ivan Abrahan.

BUFFET table from Subic is a gift from Monsour's mom; the abstract painting, from Joy's mom.

NOTHING beats comfortable living, says Monsour.